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China Overland Trade Report.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 1st JULY, 1901

TOP

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

It is expected that Count von Waldersee will be created a Prince for his services in North China.

H.M.S. *Albion* commissioned on the 25th ult. to relieve H.M.S. *Bonaventure* on the China Station.

There are to be two battalions of German troops kept in garrison at Shanghai, with cavalry and artillery.

The United States are reported to be returning to China the silver bullion and loot captured by their troops.

The Russian Press announces a *train de luxe* making an unbroken journey from Moscow to Stretensk in 11½ days, the first-class fare being 113 roubles.

A Peking letter states that Prince Chun, charged with his mission to Germany, will sail for his destination in the German Mail steamer *Bayern* from Shanghai on the 20th inst.

Reports are current in Shanghai that Li Hung-chang has bought back the Tientsin Arsenal from the Russians, who took possession of it at the time of the trouble at that port.

A Parliamentary paper shows that the estimated cost of the operations in China amounts to £5,660,000. The figures are made up of £3,500,000 in 1900-1901 and £2,160,000 in the current year.

L'Echo de Chine of the 17th ult. publishes a plan and the rules of the Hanoi Exhibition of 1902. The date of the opening of the Exhibition has been postponed, to the 3rd of November, 1902, when it will coincide with the completion of the bridge over the Red River at Hanoi, and the inauguration of the first lines of railway. The Exhibition is to consist of three sections:—1. France and her Colonies. 2. French Indo-China. 3. The Countries of the Far East.

A *Mai-sich* telegram of the 12th ult. says—The German Government notified the Powers recently that the allied council of war at Peking had decided to re-establish the Allied Headquarters in North China in order to control the allied troops that remain. Some Powers are reported to have raised objections to the resolution on the ground that it was not the unanimous decision of the council. The Japanese authorities are reported to be opposed to the re-establishment of the Headquarters in the present condition of affairs in North China, although they recognise that it will have to be re-established if any further movements of the Allies are necessitated. The American Government is silent on the matter; but it is understood that they are in favour of abolishing the Headquarters.

At a meeting of the Cabinet at Seoul it was decided to reject the French loan contract. The Korean Government had already expressed a wish to borrow money from two or three Japanese banks if the French loan should fall through. The Japanese Government refused to guarantee a loan, and the matter was dropped. The Korean Government now expects to be acquiring if the Korean Cabinet will accept a loan.

BIRTHS

* On the 14th June, 1901, at "Woolsthorpe,"
Mt. Sophia, Singapore, the wife of the Rev. J. R.
Dimes, of a son.

On the 17th June, at the Gaol House, Pearl's Hill Singapore, the wife of J. R. INNES, of a daughter.

At Quinsan Gardens, Shanghai, the wife of
P. ELAKY, of a son.

DEATHS

On 20th June, 1901, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, WILLIAM LAWSON, late Overseer

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS

At a meeting of the Cabinet at Seoul it was decided to reject the French loan contract. The Korean Government had already expressed a wish to borrow money from two or three Japanese banks if the French loan should fall through. The Japanese Government refused to guarantee a loan, and the matter was dropped. The Korean Government now expects to be acquiring if the Korean Cabinet will accept a loan.

THE POSITION OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, 25th June.)

We have arrived at the usual time when unrest begins to raise its head in China, yet we seem to miss the usual June crop of rumours. Are we to believe that China has had enough of it, and she is imitating the policy of the coon, who cornered in the tree politely asked the huntsman not to shoot—he would come down? Last June the nations of Europe, aghast at the outbreak of barbarism in the North, when they had come to the conclusion to send troops to Peking, one and all looked upon the settlement of the Chinese affair as a thing easy of accomplishment. They had only to send some twenty or thirty thousand troops, the Chinese would not show fight, and in a month or two the whole would be settled, the instigators of the outrages punished, and the country started on a course of reform. After twelve months of success the Powers are just as anxious now to get out of Peking as they were then to get in, and of the hopeful programme then held up for our admiration not one item has been accomplished. The *vis inertiae* of three hundred millions has proved too much for the united arms of Europe, and like a panic-stricken flock of sheep, it has proved more dangerous to itself than to the shepherds. China has for the nonce won her immediate end, but she has done so by the utter absence of all those principles of self-restraint without which no nation can continue to exist as a power. No one who has seen the conduct of a flock of sheep, when the buildings on the sheepcote have taken fire, can fail to note the analogy with the action of the Chinese in the present crisis. In such a case the first impulse of the flock is to rush into the midst of the fire, notwithstanding all the efforts of the shepherds to keep them out of harm's way. Each individual sheep seems possessed with a demon of self-destruction, and will take advantage of the first opportunity to rush into the furnace; and seeing one escape the shepherd, the others will blindly follow its example, and probably by sheer weight succeed in forcing a passage through their protectors. This is very much what has been taking place in China. The people and their rulers see with their physical eyes the danger, yet individually and collectively they are so dazed by panic that, like unfortunate sheep, their impulse is to rush straight for the all-devouring element. There are those amongst the onlookers who would gladly come to the rescue, but they are borne down by the mere weight of numbers, and in spite of the experience of seeing their fellows one by one caught in the flames and overcome by the most horrible of deaths, they have to stand by while the whole flock immolates itself. It is thus that amidst the panic the only measures that command a temporary hearing are those that lead to still further ruin; and the only statesmen who can obtain a hearing are those whose advice is the most suicidal. The eunuch LI LIENYING, the incapable and discredited LU CHUAN LIN, the purblind LI HUNG CHANG, who can only see Moscow; these are the men whose example leads the nation on to destruction; while others like LIU KUNG YI, even the aged WAN WANG SHAO, find themselves in the wild struggle hopelessly overpowered, or buried in the mass of ineptitude and folly. Nor can we exempt from blame the self-appointed shepherds of the flock, who when the panic was new, and the flock looked for some indication of safety, hesitated till it had passed beyond control—who were bent rather on punishment and revenge than on

example, and who lost the precious time when reorganisation was possible in squabbling amongst themselves about questions of petty precedence; and who disclaiming all desire for personal aggrandisement were nevertheless all the while surreptitiously working out schemes of partition—each in its own interest, while as carefully trying to spoil, under pretence of helping the common cause, his neighbour's "little game." When history comes to review the events of the twelve-month in China, the verdict will be one of the utter ineptitude displayed by one and all; and may be summarised in the old nursery rhyme:—

The King of France with twenty thousand men
Marched up the hill—and then marched down again.

The opportunity has been given and lost, and to all appearance the last state of China is worse than the first. Meanwhile the one country that has scored any even partial success is the most unscrupulous of all; and we may feel well satisfied if the one fruit of all our toil be not to hasten on the supreme conflict between barbarism and culture, that we had even a year ago fondly hoped had been relegated to the time of our grandchildren, if not postponed, like a too knotty point in court, *sine die*. Russia, it is true is at home in evil case, but, as in the days of the Empress CATHERINE, it is under such cases that Russia is most dangerous to her neighbours. In this instinct has taught her a similar lesson to what it has France, France however, learnt the lesson too well, and in the case of NAPOLEON III well nigh brought his country to destruction; we can only hope that a like result will follow the pursuit of similar tactics by the unscrupulous Court surrounding the well-meaning, but insufficiently strong NICHOLAS II.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE OPIUM AND RICE DUTIES.

(Daily Press, 22nd June.)

A point of some little interest to British merchants in China in connection with the Chinese Indemnity question is contained in Reuter's message of the 17th inst. According to this telegram, the Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* states that Great Britain has notified the Powers that she will not consent to China increasing the duty on imports of opium and rice. There has been much zeal on the part of certain Powers to serve China at the expense of third parties, and so ingratiate themselves with the mandarins. The opium imported into China comes mainly from India and Persia and the quantity has for some years past fallen off steadily owing to the enormous increase in the cultivation of the poppy in the Central Kingdom, although it is actually prohibited. The following figures will serve to illustrate this decline:—

1891	77,445
1892	70,782
1893	68,108
1894	63,125
1895	51,306
1896	48,994
1897	49,309
1898	49,752
1899	59,161
1900	49,279

The drop was arrested slightly in 1897, for some reason, probably a falling off in the quality and quantity of the Szechuen and Yunnan crops. The latter drug has within the last twelve months for the first time made an appearance in the Hongkong market, though the import in 1900 probably did not exceed 25 chests. The import from abroad in 1900 was, considering

the disturbance to trade caused by the hostilities in the North, well maintained, more especially as it is estimated by dealers that at least one hundred chests per month are passed into China through Kwanchauwan without coming under the cognizance of the Chinese Customs. Seeing therefore that British India, Persia, and to a very small extent Turkey, are the only countries directly interested in the import of opium, some of the Foreign Ministers thought to be generous by making a concession that would cost them nothing and suggested an addition to the duties on the drug.

Rice is another commodity in which few of the Treaty Powers are interested, and it therefore seemed an easy subject for attack. The rice imported into China comes chiefly from Indo-China (Saigon and Haiphong), Siam, and Burmah, with occasional small shipments from Japan. The grain from the latter country is not popular because it is considered too strong, too full of sarch. The total import of rice in 1899 was 7,365,217 piculs compared with 6,207,226 piculs in 1900. To increase the duty on this staple food of the Chinese would be to inflict hardship on the poorer classes of the people, without giving any adequate return for the inconvenience that would follow a rise in prices. The lower classes in Kwangtung and several other provinces, who are largely fed on imported rice, would suffer materially if their staple food were to be further taxed. The Chinese in the Colony would of course not participate in this inconvenience because Hongkong is a free port, but it is not part of the policy of the British Government to connive at any attempt to throw the main burden of the indemnity on the tiling millions of China; they would prefer that the money should be collected in a way that would not press on the poorer classes. Apart from these reasons, Great Britain naturally will protest against any single item of import or export being singled out for exceptional treatment, either in the way of increase or decrease. The whole question of the tariff and of the method of collecting the duties will have to be exhaustively dealt with later on, and the British Government are right to refuse to allow it to be tangled up with the payment of the indemnity to various Powers for losses during the hostilities. There are many matters to be threshed out before the tariff can be amended. The *lo-ti shui* puzzle, the imposition of *lo-ti shui* in the interior, and the dual system of Customs, which at present eats up the revenue and strangles trade, all want straightening out, or utter abolition. They are all legal, but like many things Chinese they have grown up under the shadow of officialism, and remain as powerful stumbling blocks in the way of trade.

Later details in the *Nagasaki Press* put a rather different complexion on the facts, in which two men from H.M.S. *Goth* were engaged. It appears that the two men were in a state of semi-drunkenness when they entered the Japanese saloon. After partaking of a bottle of beer, the men left by the back-door and entered the next house, which was a private dwelling. They forced their way into a room upstairs, wherein a sick person was lying. The saloon keeper called the men's attention to the fact that they were trespassing and asked them to leave. In reply one of the men struck at the Japanese with the haft of a knife. A policeman was called and on attempting to arrest the men, the latter endeavoured to run down the stairs. The more drunken of the two failed to get down safely and struck the back of his head against the stairs, causing a ugly wound, from which the blood flowed freely. As stated yesterday, the men were released, as the Japanese interested in the case refused to prefer a charge against them.

GERMANY IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 24th June.)

It requires no special penetration to see at the present time that Germany is taking her new position in the world very seriously. Whether we read the home or the colonial Press of Germany or listen to the speeches of the Kaiser himself, the burden is invariably the inevitable rise of Germany in the scale of nations. The Emperor WILLIAM declared at Hamburg last week that the future of the country lay upon the waters. Among all who have read the brief report of his speech, residents in the Far East are the least likely to doubt his foresight. Within the past two years we have seen more and more shipping pass under the German flag. Like Mr. PIERPONT MORGAN the Germans know the advantage of taking over old established business rather than creating new in opposition to that already existing. By the simple process of paying money down, Germany has lately transformed a modest trade in South-Eastern Asia into a most valuable commercial asset. In her possession on the Shantung coast she has established herself firmly in North China. The Yangtze region remains. In the old days (as we may call them now, so remote do they seem) British politicians and writers could talk lightly of the "sphere of influence" secured for their country in the valley of the Yangtze, and they could do so without challenge from Continental critics. Then Germany and Russia had not gained their foothold in China. Now they have, and with the bulk of Europe behind them they can turn attention to Mid-China. They have lost no time in so doing. The German Press in Europe and in the Far East has taken up the cause as a labour of love. We gave last week the gist of an article in our German contemporary in Shanghai, *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*, in which the situation on the Yangtze, from a German point of view, was fully discussed. Coming as it did just after Admiral SEYMOUR's warning utterances at the China Association dinner on the 10th instant, the purport of the article is not likely to be missed. The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* writer tells us that the change in the situation is due to the increased respect of the Powers (and, in particular, of England) for Germany. He thinks that the energetic action of the German troops in Chihli has had an effect—a statement which it is permissible to doubt, for it cannot be made out that Germany did more than other nations, and in some respects her arrangements broke down badly. But it cannot be doubted that the rise of German commerce and sea-power together have very powerfully affected the position of affairs in China. With regard to the Yangtze valley, however, in spite of the fact that our "sphere of influence" used to be glibly talked about, there was never any desire among level-headed statesmen and writers to see this region annexed to the British Empire. It was indeed claimed that if such a catastrophe as the dismemberment of China were to take place, no other Power could be allowed to take over the Yangtze Valley, but all the time such dismemberment was strongly condemned. Now the Powers generally, whether all in sincerity or not cannot be said, have pledged themselves against a partition of China, and there is no longer any question of any one annexing the Yangtze region. The German bluster on the point therefore appears to us merely superfluous. "Germany has gained here now equal rights, which are publicly acknowledged," says the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*.

So too have Japan, the United States, any European Power, and they are all equally entitled to assert it if they choose. Equal rights for all commerce is what Great Britain has always insisted on for the Yangtze, as also, with varying success, in the rest of China. It is perhaps the consciousness of Germany's monopoly in the exploitation of Shantung which makes our Shanghai contemporary so uneasy. The German garrison at Shanghai is now pointed to as the guardian of the "Open Door" on the Yangtze, and its maintenance is "a sign of particular political shrewdness on the part of the German Government." The "Open Door" seems to be of the kind which requires four policemen sitting on the doorstep to keep it open. At any rate our northern neighbour is to enjoy for some indefinite time more the doubtful privilege of four foreign garrisons—from Germany, Great Britain, France, and Japan. We do not feel confident that the residents will cordially accept the prospect.

(Daily Press, 29th June.)

It is one of the favourite functions, apparently, of the present German Emperor from time to time to astonish the world by some oracular utterance, the meaning of which is left to be interpreted, as the Delphic Oracle of old, by the result. The interpretation furthest from the Emperor's intention is in the majority of cases placed upon some simple sentence, and the most bizarre prognostications for the future are founded on the simplest indications. The usual explanation of these supposed oracular utterances is that the Emperor in the fulness of his heart, lets slip at unexpected moments something of the current of his private thoughts. According to these interpreters the Emperor is no more capable of keeping his secret thoughts to himself than was the Lydian queen who, having vowed to tell to no mortal her tale, confided to the listening reeds the secret of her soul—that her husband had asses' ears. Unfortunately we in China are at the moment being made the innocent victims of the whims of the latest interpreters of the oracle. So lately as the 18th May, the birthday of the TSAR of RUSSIA came about. The Emperor WILLIAM had arranged to be present at a review of his troops about the time, and, it being the custom on his Court that the representative of each crowned head should in person visit the Emperor on the birthday of his sovereign and receive the customary congratulations, the Russian Ambassador was present. As an act of courtesy to his neighbour, the German Emperor did the graceful act of postponing the review till the actual birthday of the Tsar. If Sovereigns were, on account of those national struggles and jealousies which until the millenium must always exist between adjacent states, to carry into their private lives every petty cause of national difference, the coveted station of sovereign would indeed not be worth the striving for. So thought the Emperor WILLIAM II., and so doubtless thought the majority of his subjects. Pleasant acts were doubtless all the better for the accompaniment of pleasant words, and the Emperor apparently introduced the last little incident of current talk. A break in the clouds that had been hanging over China had just appeared, and it seemed for the first time possible to remove the rule of brute force, and bring Count von WALDEN home. There had been a good deal of friction about this, and Count von WALDEN. All were willing to acknowledge that he had done his best, and what he did

or what he did not do, at all events all were agreed that he had been a gentleman. So, somewhat adroitly, the Emperor was able to point to the good understanding as having been brought about by Count von WALDEN. If any political lesson were intended in the speech, so far from pointing to a new connection between Germany and Russia, it rather indicated that Russia would have done better if, instead of trying to work out merely her own aggrandisement, she had thrown herself in with the line indicated by the Count and had abstained from her questionable attempts to force a private convention on China detrimental to the interests not only of China, but of Europe generally. If such be the case there is some explanation of a course of subsequent action otherwise difficult to comprehend. Germany is doubtless sincere in wishing to terminate a military occupation from which she understands, as plainly as Great Britain, that she gains no advantage equivalent to the drain and expense. She is moreover anxious in the face of Russia to avoid a misunderstanding that would give the latter Power a plausible excuse for continuing her occupation, so, while as far as possible withdrawing from the north, she yet wished to have her troops handy in case of emergency. To withdraw them to Kiaochau was doubtless open to misconception, so, as Shanghai in the *Kriegspiel* has hitherto been considered a no-man's land, where spare troops and stores could always be dumped without infringing the rules of the game, it apparently seemed that the forces withdrawn would if landed there be out of the calculation. This was probably at the bottom of the suggestion, rather than that any unfriendly action with regard to England was intended or thought of. Shanghai has already the pleasure of sheltering not only German but British, French, and Japanese troops, not as a hostile step, but as a convenient backwater, out of the eddy of international whirlpools; and to continue the utilisation of the place a little longer doubtless seemed at first sight reasonable. But it unfortunately happens that the position of affairs there, though hitherto with a good deal of mutual forbearance it has been possible to maintain a show of good feeling, is by no means satisfactory; and there are appearing ominous signs that the joint and several occupations cannot much longer be maintained, and as Great Britain has long since acquired certain senior rights, which although long held in abeyance have never been surrendered, it is becoming clear that some definite course of action must be arrived at. It is under these circumstances that the proposal has naturally excited a good deal of opposition. We have nothing to complain of in the conduct of Germany, and for German troops we gave nothing but good to say, but joint occupations have at all times been the fertile mother of difficulties, and, as neither England nor Germany have any desire to break the good understanding hitherto existing, we trust that the Emperor will on his side see how fraught with danger would be the carrying out of his proposal. The situation all round is a complicated and hitherto unprecedented one, but is only a premonitory symptom of what must happen in the future if some steps be not taken to reduce, instead of increasing, the possible points of friction. The interests of the world in Shanghai are too great to permit it to become the playground of contending troops, yet there is ever a danger of this should a chance match reach this present magazine of warlike stores.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ARRIVALS AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 22nd June)

The Government is decidedly to be congratulated on the step which it has taken to improve the system of medical inspection of arrivals at this port. As our readers have seen from the report of the Chamber of Commerce meeting on the 11th instant, the Chamber, at the instance of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, supported by all the leading shipping firms and agencies in the Colony, drafted a letter to the Government, which was forwarded on the 1st instant, calling attention to the pressing need for such improvements in the system of medical inspection of shipping visiting Hongkong. The Government on the 7th instant replied, stating that H.E. the Governor fully realised the importance of the subject and proposed to amend the quarantine regulations as suggested. Yesterday a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* was issued, dated the previous day, amending the regulations published in 1897. Section 19 of the new regulations runs as follows:—"The preceding regulations (with the exception of No. 15) shall not apply to any vessel which has on board as Surgeon or Medical Officer a Medical practitioner entitled to be registered as such in this Colony, provided that upon entering the waters of this Colony the Master of the vessel shall sign a certificate, in the form A appended to these regulations, to the effect that there has been no sickness of an infectious or contagious nature on board such vessel within a period of twelve days previous to the date of arrival of the vessel within the waters of this Colony, and unless the Surgeon or Medical Officer of the vessel shall at the same time sign a certificate, in the form B appended to these regulations, to the same effect, with the addition that he has seen every person on board such vessel within the twelve hours immediately preceding his signature thereto." Section 15, which is excepted above, refers to Chinese passenger ships or vessels which have passengers on board in a filthy or otherwise unwholesome condition, or are overcrowded with passengers, emigrants, etc., and to "infected" or "suspected" vessels. The effect of the new regulations is to relieve our very much overworked Health Officer of the Port and to confer an immense boon on the big shipping companies who go to the expense of keeping thoroughly trained doctors on board. Mr. H. A. RITCHIE's letter to the Chamber of Commerce put the case in favour of an amendment of present conditions as well as it could be put, and we need add nothing in its support. By its commendable promptitude in issuing new regulations the Government has deserved the thanks of all shipping firms here, as well as of the community in general.

Arrangements have been made, says the *Bangkok Times*, to let the N. D. L. steamer *Deli* run in connection with the homeward and outward German Mail in the following manner:—The *Deli* will leave Bangkok every alternate Thursday to arrive at Singapore on Monday morning, the homeward boats leaving Singapore on Monday at 4 p.m. The outward German Mail is due at daylight on Thursdays of the same week, and the *Deli* is thus to return on Thursday afternoon and will reach Bangkok on Monday morning. It is not expected, we believe, that this regular mail connection will pay the owners unless a subsidy can be obtained from the Siam Government. However the run will be given a trial for several months, and we sincerely hope that means will be found to continue the same for some time to come.

GERMANY'S INDEMNITY CLAIM.

(Daily Press, 26th June.)

The increase of Germany's indemnity claim from China to £14,000,000 will not occasion much surprise. The Chinese authorities some time ago received a warning from the representatives of the Berlin Government that the continued occupation of North China by the German troops would involve a larger claim for compensation. In April last the German claim was for £12,000,000. Now another £2,000,000 have been added on, the increase being designed to cover the further expenses of maintaining the German forces up north to the 1st July. We do not know at present whether any other Powers are about to follow Germany's lead. It cannot be denied that in demanding from China that she should defray the enormous expenses involved in despatching the German expedition to Chihli and in keeping it there as long as it was necessary, Germany was perfectly within her rights. But the question arises whether it is equitable to keep on claiming more from China for every extension of the period of occupation. We have been told, on the evidence of most trustworthy witnesses, that the conduct of affairs by Count von WALDERSEE has from various reasons—chiefly from the lack of a competent intelligence department—been marked by grave errors. Our readers will remember that we have dealt with this question more than once during the past few months. It appears, however, that China is to be made to pay the entire cost, in spite of the fact that at least three Powers are in favour of a reduction of the already fixed indemnity. These three Powers, needless to say, are deeply interested in the development of China's trade. But not only Great Britain, the United States, and Japan are so interested; Germany herself is, to a rapidly increasing extent. We cannot therefore see how it is to her interest to help in the crippling process which nations whose interest in China is political, not commercial, are prepared to see applied. The policy is a short-sighted and narrow one, sacrificing the future in return for a comparatively small gain at the present moment. Those German writers who are insisting so much on the inevitable growth of their country's trade would, if they aimed at consistency, make strong representations on this point. But we fear that international jealousy has too long swayed the relations of the Powers in China to allow a recognition of the principle that what is best for China is also best in the long run for the Powers who are not merely aiming at wresting at once a lump sum from her. The transformation of Germany is too recent for her rulers to be ready to give up the immediate political advantages for the commercial promise of the future. The most unfortunate part of the affair is that those opposed to the crippling of China by excessive indemnities have apparently no remedy, for they are in the minority, where the greatness of their stakes in China counts for little.

In the I.M.C.'s first quarterly returns this year, one of the places mentioned is Yatung in Tibet, where there is a Custom House which collects nothing but figures. The trade seems to have fallen off somewhat in 1901, for the loads carried inwards and outwards were only 20,045 against 22,484 last year. The import of cottons and woollens looks rather large, but it is given in yards; other imports were numerous but in small quantities. The exports were not very large; they included 8,400 lamb skins and 6,000 piculs of sheep's wool.

PLAGUE BURIALS IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press 27th June.)

The question raised by our correspondent "PUZZLED" concerning the cemeteries is an important one. It is not, however, by any means a new question. Many years ago, before bubonic plague was thought of and when we lived in blissful ignorance of the evil times impending, the desirability of providing a cemetery outside the limits of this island was propounded in this column. The immediate occasion for this suggestion was the then crowded condition of the Chinese cemeteries on the slopes of Mount Davis. It was believed by many persons competent to form an opinion that the malarious condition of the Western portion of the city, more especially the district along Bonham Road, was due in great measure to the exhalations carried by the westerly breeze from these cemeteries over that district. It was also considered that the cemeteries in Happy Valley were becoming too crowded, and that at no distant date they would have to be closed. These evils have become greatly intensified since then, and the need for fresh burial accommodation has become urgent. All the objections then raised against existing cemeteries have become accentuated both by reason of their crowded condition and by the necessity for providing a separate burial ground for the victims of plague. The question has not escaped the attention of the Sanitary Board, for at a recent meeting they decided to send in a recommendation to the Government that the present plague cemetery, which forms the most conspicuous object on entering the port through Sulphur Channel, should be closed, and that a new one should be opened in Sandy Bay.

This recommendation is certainly by way of improvement, because this cemetery is within the waters of the harbour, and is therefore an eyesore and an affliction. But the Sanitary Board might have gone much further than this. When, as we have stated, it was proposed to find a site for a new cemetery, we proposed that an island should be acquired from China by the British Government for the purpose. Objections were raised to this proposal, the principal, of course, being that of the difficulty of securing an island. Another difficulty mooted was the means of conveyance, the weather being sometimes such as to make the passage across a drawback. The first of these difficulties has vanished with our recent territorial aggrandisement. The colony now possesses a large choice of territory on the mainland for the purpose, to say nothing of several islands within easy reach, and with large unoccupied slopes available. The island of Hongkong is, as "PUZZLED" remarks, much too overcrowded to be used as a cemetery, more especially for corpses from the mainland, where there is a practically unlimited choice of sites. If, however, it is decided to select a site for a new cemetery on the mainland, it would be necessary before doing so to carefully study the conditions, including the water-supply for the peninsula, and the great growth of population along the northern shores of this harbour. A general cemetery, if on the mainland, should be accessible by a good road or railway, or it would make the cost of interment a serious matter to the poorer classes. Probably the best, and, on the whole, most easily accessible site for the use of the inhabitants of Hongkong would be on Lamma Island. Regular means of communication would have to be maintained by Government, and the charges

made for passages across for funerals a very nominal fee. This grim ferry could never be expected to prove a commercial success; its cost would practically have to come out of the rates. A separate cemetery for Kowloon should, in any case, be provided at once. The sight described by "PUZZLED" of a cargo of corpses being towed over to Hongkong for burial is certainly a scandal in this age, and would be a disgrace to any place. We trust the Sanitary Board will take up this question at once and in earnest. It does not admit of delay. The transport of the dead from Kowloon to Hongkong is on the face of it most unreasonable and unnecessary. The whole question of the future interment of the dead should be gone into carefully and exhaustively, with a view to its early settlement on sanitary lines, and with a view to relieving this island from the necessity of providing a new necropolis on its already limited and overcrowded area.

OUR NEW ADMIRAL ON THE NAVY.

(Daily Press, 28th June.)

In the last edition of *The Naval Annual* there is a chapter by the new Admiral on the China Station, Sir CYPRIAN A. G. BRIDGE, K.C.B., on "War and its Chief Lesson." As a sub-head to the title the writer adds the words "for study at the beginning of a New Century." The article, in the circumstances of Admiral BRIDGE's recent appointment, will be read with more than usual interest out here. The point with which the writer deals arises from the frequent recurrence of defeats and disasters inflicted on armed forces by antagonists whose power to do so had not been previously suspected. "It will not be denied," says Admiral BRIDGE, "that it is of immense importance to us to enquire how this happened, and ascertain how—for the future—it may be rendered highly improbable in our own case. A brief enumeration of the more striking instances will make it plain that the events in question have been confined to no particular age and to no particular country. It may be said that the more elaborately organised and trained in peace time an armed force happened to be, the more unexpected always, and generally more the disastrous, was its downfall." Admiral BRIDGE then proceeds to give a long list of examples from history, from the Persian invasion of Greece under XERXES—hardly, we think, a good instance—down to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. He sums up the list: "It is to be specially noted that in the above enumeration only conflicts in which the result was unexpected—unexpected not only by the beaten side, but also by impartial observers—have been specified. . . . The object has been to show the frequency—in all ages and in all circumstances of systematic, as distinguished from savage, warfare—of the defeat of the force which by general consent was regarded as certain to win." There must be some cause for this, the writer infers, and its discovery may enable us to remove it in the future.

Deprecating the apprehensiveness of professional military (including under this title naval) writers lest credit be given to fighting bodies less precisely trained in peace time than the body to which they belong themselves, and their eagerness to extol the special qualities developed by long-continued service methods, Admiral BRIDGE says this sensitiveness is unnecessary, for "there is nothing in the history of war to show that an untrained force is better than a trained force." The forces which have put

an unexpected end to long military supremacies have been, as often as not, themselves strictly regular troops. The records of war lend no support to the silly suggestion that a country can be efficiently defended by "an untrained man with a rifle behind a hedge." The error of the beaten side in such instances as Admiral BRIDGE enumerates has not lain in the fact of organisation, but in its kind. Then, under the heads of "professional self-satisfaction," "formalism," "the fetters of specialism," and "pedantry," the Admiral indicates the dangers of a regular, permanently embodied service of fighting men. We need not go in the arguments here, for their tendency can be sufficiently deduced from the titles of the paragraphs, and Admiral BRIDGE's remarks are in agreement with the bulk of the sound criticism which has been applied of late by thoughtful writers to our own hitherto existing War Office system—though he does not actually allude by name to the War Office at all. He does, however, by way of conclusions turn to the question of the applicability of the discussion to the ultimate efficiency of the British Navy, and this section will be read with special attention.

All reform in the Navy during the past fifty years, says Admiral BRIDGE, has been in the direction of securing perfect uniformity. Before 1860, he instances, there was no British naval uniform for anyone below the rank of officer. "Now, at every inspection, much time is taken up in ascertaining if the narrow tape embroidery on a frock coat is of the regulation, and if the rows of tape are the proper distance apart." So it is in greater things. Till 1853 there was no permanent British naval service except the commissioned and warrant officers. Now, every bluejacket proper serves continuously and has been in the Navy since boyhood. Courses of training are necessary for all members of a ship's company. The progress of the Navy towards centralisation has been astonishing. "Naval duties," says the Admiral, "are now formulated at a desk on shore, and the mode of carrying them out notified to the service in print." All this, he observes, would have astonished the contemporaries of NELSON, EXMOUTH, or CORDRINGTON as much as the aspect of a battleship or of a 12-ton breech-loading gun. Admiral BRIDGE disclaims any intention of criticism, favourable or unfavourable; the present is not the time for this. His object is to show that the change in naval affairs is not one in *matériel* only, and that the transformation in other matters has been stupendous and revolutionary beyond all previous experience. "It follows," he says (and with this quotation we will conclude), "that we shall wage war in future under conditions dissimilar from any hitherto known. In this very fact there lies the making of a great surprise. . . . The question of practical moment is: 'How are we to guard ourselves against such a surprise?' To this a satisfactory answer can be given, though it may be a long one. It might be summarised in the admonitions: abolish over-centralisation; give proper scope to individual capacity; and initiative; eschew professional self-sufficiency."

Count von Waldersee brought his brief sojourn in Japan to a close on the 19th ult. when he arrived in Kobe from Tokyo, was presented with a souvenir of his visit to Kobe by the Japanese and foreign community, and embarked on the cruiser *Hertha*, which proceeded to Nagasaki, the Count there transferring to the hospital ship *Gera*, on which he will voyage to Europe, making stoppages, however, at Batavia, the Seychelles Islands, etc.

THE GOVERNMENT AND SANITATION.

(Daily Press, 29th June.)

There can be no question that the motion of the Captain Superintendent of Police, which was so unanimously supported by the Sanitary Board on Thursday, tends to the better health of the Colony, and all will accept Mr. MAY's statement that it is our duty (we take it that by "our" Mr. MAY did not merely mean the Sanitary Board) to "see that the Colony is not hampered with a mill-stone tied round the neck in the shape of an insanitary city, built in defiance of all sanitary principles accepted in other parts of the world." It is indeed refreshing to hear such vigorous language proceeding from official lips. With an earlier remark of Mr. MAY, however, we cannot find ourselves in agreement. He said:—"It is one of the watchwords of wise statesmen 'not to legislate ahead of public opinion,' and if that is true of any form of legislation, it is pre-eminently true of legislation in sanitary matters. No Government was ever willing to enact drastic sanitary legislation unless backed by a considerable share of public opinion. I say no Government is willing, and very few Governments attempt it, unless so backed." Surely public opinion is not to be the absolute guide which "wise statesmen" are to follow. If so, what need is there of expert advice? In sanitary matters, in particular, it has been found necessary in most countries to legislate ahead of public opinion, for the public is made up not only of the minority who prefer cleanliness personally and in their surroundings, but also of the majority who do not care and often seem actually to prefer dirt. Is it a mark of political wisdom to wait for the conversion of the masses to a preference for cleanliness? No Government, Mr. MAY went on, was ever willing to enact drastic sanitary legislation unless backed by a considerable share of public opinion. This looks like an apology for the Hongkong Government, past and present, in which case it is not adequate. The "considerable share of public opinion" postulated by Mr. MAY has been ready to back up drastic sanitary legislation, especially with reference to plague, since 1894 onwards. But when has the Government attempted the drastic legislation?

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 23rd June, 7.30 p.m.

The Turkish Mission left Shanghai yesterday (Saturday), for Nagasaki, thence returning home to Turkey via Siberia. The Mission has effected nothing here.

SHANGHAI, 25th June, 7.26 p.m.

It is stated that the Empress Dowager will go overland to Kaifeng-fu, while the Emperor is to go overland to Wei-huei, then by the Wei River and the Grand Canal to Tientsin, completing the journey thence to Peking by rail.

SHANGHAI, 26th June, 7.45 p.m.

A Lanchau letter has reached Nanking, stating that Prince Tuan with several thousand Mongol horsemen has passed Hengcheng and is proceeding to Peking.

SHANGHAI, 27th June, 7.21 p.m.

Ching Sing, President of the Board of Civil Appointments, has committed suicide at Hsianfu after presenting a memorial begging the Court to return to Peking.

The Empress Dowager accused him of treachery in trying to entrap her into the Allies' power.

SHANGHAI, 28th June, 7.30 p.m.

Mounted brigands and disbanded soldiers are harrying Manchuria from Moukden to the Korean frontier. The Russian forces are unequal to the task of restoring order.

There are repeated reports to the effect that Tung Fuhsiang and Prince Tuan are marching on Taiyuan-fu and Peking respectively.

THE PHILIPPINES.

MANILA, 22nd June, 6.10 p.m.

A Washington cable states that after the 4th July next, until it is otherwise ordered, Judge Taft will exercise authority in civil affairs in the Philippines under conformity with the instructions given to the Commission in April, 1900, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War.

The Military Governor continues to exercise his authority in hostile districts.

General Cailles is to surrender with 600 riflemen at Santa Cruz on Monday, the event being converted into a grand fiesta.

MANILA, 24th June, 11.30 a.m.

General Cailles surrendered to-day, with four hundred rifles, at Santa Cruz. The oath of allegiance to the United States Government was administered to all, who were then released.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 27th ult. at the Board room. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE PLAGUE.

The Chamber of Commerce recently addressed to the Government a letter dealing with the plague epidemic in the colony. Appended is an extract from that letter:—"It is unfortunately true that medical science has not yet discovered any means of successfully grappling with the plague, but that fact should not stand in the way of measures being taken to arrest its spread, or of the adoption of such precautions in the handling of the sick, the cleansing of drains and houses, and the inspection of slums, as might tend to curtail the ravages of this scourge within certain limits."

In forwarding the extract to the Sanitary Board, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, on behalf of the Government, asked to be furnished with a statement as to what had been done by the sanitary officers in respect of the three matters alluded to by the Chamber of Commerce. The attention of the Sanitary Board was further drawn to the fact that H. E. the Governor had sanctioned all but one of the suggestions put forward by the M.O. H. in a letter dated 28th January, 1901, for anticipating an outbreak of bubonic plague this year.

The suggestions were published fully in these columns at the time. They recommended house-to-house inspection by European constables, the swearing-in of soldiers as special constables to prevent the depositing of dead bodies in the streets at night, the re-enaction of the light regulations as contained in Section 31 of Ordinance 13 of 1881 in that portion of the city west of Eastern Street (this was a suggestion disapproved of by H. E. the Governor), the cleansing of all houses in lanes where dead bodies were found, the offering of a reward of \$5 for information leading to the conviction of any person depositing a dead body in the street, and, lastly, the offering of a

reward of \$1 for every living case of plague reported.

The letter from the Government forwarding the extract from the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, and asking what had been done in the matter, was submitted to Dr. Clark, who minuted:—

"1. *The handling of the sick.*—There is a staff, consisting of three European officers, eight Portuguese foremen, three Chinese foremen, and 48 coolies, who are available for the removal of patients and the disinfection of premises vacated by them. A launch is also employed conveying patients from Wanchai to Kennedytown, while police pinnaces are used to tow a boat in which patients from Kowloon were brought over, until the Kowloon Hospital was opened.

"2. *The cleansing of drains and houses.*—The above-named staff is also employed on this work. The drains of all infected houses are flushed with disinfectants, and since the 15th inst. the sewers in the lower level have been flushed with sea-water by means of the fire-engines.

"3. *Inspection of slums.*—The ordinary work of the district inspectors has not been interfered with by the occurrence of the epidemic—that is to say, their number has not been depleted, extra men being engaged for the extra duties. There are now thirteen inspectors engaged on inspection work in the city and two in Kowloon, in addition to one European constable and seven sappers engaged on special plague visiting duty."

On the motion of the PRESIDENT the minute of the Medical Officer of Health was forwarded to the Government in reply to the letter.

BATH-HOUSES FOR CHINESE WOMEN.

At a recent meeting of the Sanitary Board a resolution was passed requesting the Government to increase the number of coolie bath-houses. H. E. the Governor, to whom the resolution was submitted, asked for information from the Board as to what additional accommodation was necessary.

In reply, Dr. Clark made the following suggestions for the sites of ten new bath-houses:—(1) Over foreshore opposite Stone Nullah Lane (2), on Reclamation between Jubilee Street and Tung Man Lane (3), two in the Taipingshan district (4), one in Water Lane (between East Street and West Street) (5), one in Possession Street (6), one in Sutherland Street (7), one opposite 534, Queen's Road West (8), corner of Second Street and Sai Ying Poon Nullah (9), junction of Third Street and Western Street. The sites were indicated on a plan of the city.

In forwarding the suggestions and plan to the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. W. Chatham (President) pointed out that, at the same rate as those already erected, the cost of providing the new bath-houses would be about \$4,000, and the daily cost \$85, or \$2,550 per month.

In giving his consent to the erection of the new bath-houses, H. E. the Governor asked:—"Is there any accommodation for females?" The reply being in the negative, His Excellency again minuted:—"Can the Sanitary Board suggest any place where females could be accommodated?"

Dr. Clark minuted:—"I think the Registrar-General might give the Board the benefit of his opinion on this subject."

MR. BREWIN—I have left it to Mr. Fung Wa Chuen.

MR. FUNG WA CHUEN—I don't think it is necessary to have bath-houses for women. They would be used only by women of a very low class.

THE PRESIDENT—It is low-class women we want to get at. The coolie women you see carrying to the Peak look as though they wanted a bath.

MR. BREWIN—You might try the experiment at West Point and Third Street. If the women there don't use the bath-houses, no one else will.

MR. OSBORNE—Try a simple matched. It won't do any harm.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—Keep two policemen on duty—one at each door.

THE PRESIDENT—Is it the opinion that we notify the Government that it would be useless to make such provision for Chinese women, as we feel that they would not avail themselves of the bathhouses?

Such was the unanimous opinion of the Board, and it was agreed to notify the Government accordingly.

ADDITIONAL SENIOR INSPECTORS.

The PRESIDENT intimated that provision for two additional senior inspectors had been made in the Estimates for 1902.

NEW APPROACH PATH TO KENNEDYTOWN PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

The Government has approved the resolution passed at last meeting of the Sanitary Board for the construction of a new approach path to Kennedytown Plague Hospital.

The cost has been estimated not to exceed \$200, and will be charged to the plague vote in the 1902 estimates.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS.

The PRESIDENT said that the appointment of two temporary inspectors for disinfection had been approved.

PLANTING OF TREES AT KENNEDYTOWN PLAGUE CEMETERY.

It was intimated that the Government had adopted the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board recommending that trees be planted between the graves at the Kennedytown Plague Cemetery.

The cost, which is roughly estimated at \$10 per 1,000 trees, will be charged in the estimates against the vote for tree planting.

THE PRESIDENT—The planting will be done at once.

THE INSPECTOR'S QUARTERS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

A resolution having been forwarded to the Government from the Board recommending that provision for the addition of a wing to Inspector Watson's quarters at Kennedytown be made in the 1902 Estimates, it was intimated that the resolution had been approved by H. E. the Governor, and that the estimated cost, \$1,700, would be placed provisionally in the Estimates for 1902.

The following minutes were appended:—

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—"I opposed any addition to the house until it was seen after a fair trial (to end of year at least) if the steps taken had rendered the site non-malarious. Neither did I join in the recommendation that provision be made in next year's estimates of the service."

Registrar-General—"Before I voted for the resolution the Chairman assured me that a provision to the following effect would be embodied—'But that the work be not undertaken unless at the end of the year the Board is satisfied that the site is non-malarious.'"

THE PRESIDENT—"The letter to Government clearly stated that the Board recommend that the work be not proceeded with if the present immunity from malaria is not maintained."

MR. OSBORNE'S MOTION.

MR. OSBORNE, pursuant to notice, was to have moved—

"That the Board recommend the Government to enact:—

"That every domestic building hereafter erected, of a greater depth than forty feet (as measured in accordance with sub-section (e) of section 56 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1901), shall be provided by the owner with a glazed skylight in the roof, of a total area of not less than one-twenty fifth of the total floor area of such domestic building, and every upper floor shall be provided with a well-hole, corresponding, in position and area, to such skylight."

"Provided that no such provision shall be required in the case of domestic buildings which are, in the opinion of the Sanitary Board, adequately lit by means of windows opening into a side street or other open space of a width of not less than fifteen feet, in addition to being lit from the front."

MR. OSBORNE in withdrawing the motion, said—The motion was brought about by the Chinese houses I had seen in the direction of the reclamation between Douglas Wharf and Wing Lok Street. Anyone who has seen these houses must have been struck by the want of ventilation that must occur when the whole of this reclamation has been built upon. They have no back lanes and there is no provision for light or air. Owners of buildings such as these should be asked to erect a class of buildings which would, while not increasing the cost, prevent the present hotbeds of disease in the future. The Vice-President, the Medical

Officer of Health and myself visited one of these houses lately, and we came to the conclusion that to make a back lane would be prohibitive on account of the expense, and that the only way to proceed would be to erect a skylight in the roof. It has since been suggested to me that this proposal had better be embodied in the recommendation of the sub-committee looking into these affairs, and therefore I withdraw my motion.

THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS—MR. MAY'S SPEECH.

The Vice-President, pursuant to notice, moved—

"That the Board urge the Government to insert in the new Building Ordinance or otherwise enact without undue delay the following provisions:—

"(1.) No building shall exceed in height 1½ times the width of the street upon which it fronts, as measured from the outer edge of the foot-path on one side to the outer edge of the foot-path on the opposite side where such footpath exists. The width of any street which is not provided with a foot-path shall be the shortest distance measured between the main walls of the buildings on the opposite sides thereof, or the building line as determined by the Director of Public Works where there is no building opposite.

"(2.) No verandah shall be erected in any street of a less width than fifty feet nor in any street which is not provided with a foot-path of the width of 10 feet on that side of the street on which it is proposed to erect such verandah.

"(3.) No balcony shall be erected in any street of a less width than 30 feet, nor in any street which is not provided with a foot-path of a width of four feet six inches on that side of the street on which it is proposed to erect such balcony."

In making the motion Mr. MAY said—Sir, it will be within the recollection of the Board that in connection with the Insanitary Properties Bill, which became law in 1899, it was recommended that the height of all buildings to be in future erected should not exceed one and a half times the width of the street on which they front. That recommendation, as was to be expected, called forth a good deal of opposition from persons interested in house property, with the result, that in the Ordinance as finally passed the provision was only made to apply to houses erected on land purchased or acquired from the Crown after the passing of the Ordinance. To this concession the Board agreed, and in doing that, as I have said before, and now say again—the Board was very wrong. I myself have regretted my acquiescence in that concession more than anything I have regretted for the last eight or nine years. On 5th February a sub-committee of this Board which was appointed to draw up a scheme of sanitary improvements for the City of Victoria repeated the same recommendations, and in support of the proposition to restrict the height of buildings I shall quote from the report drawn up by that sub-committee.

Mr. MAY here read a few extracts dealing with the density of the population and the increasing of the death-rate.

Continuing, he said—It has been proved in England that whereas the death-rate of rural England is only 16 per 1,000, the death-rate of urban England is 22 per 1,000. Now, I believe this matter of restricting the height of buildings is under the consideration of the Government, but attention has been drawn, since the sub-committee submitted its report on 5th February, to the great obstruction caused by verandahs and balconies. As the result of this, I have come to the conclusion—and I hope the Board will agree with me—that to restrict houses to one and a half times the width of the street on which they front is not sufficient, I base my arguments on the example afforded by the street nearest to us—Queen's Road. That street is called a fifty-foot street, and under the existing law houses can be erected in that street to a height of seventy-six feet. Now the actual roadway in Queen's Road only measures thirty feet across, ten feet on each side being taken up by footpaths which are covered over by verandahs. I ask any man of common-sense to contemplate the condition of this city when a street like

Queen's Road, the width of which only measures thirty feet, is flanked on each side, as it will be unless measures are taken to stop it, with houses seventy-six feet in height, and furnished with verandahs throughout. I should like to know how much sunlight will ever reach the ground floors—perhaps even the second floors—of such houses. The object of sections 1 and 2 of my resolution (which I should like to make one, if the Board will permit me) is that Queen's Road, for the purpose of the first paragraph of section 1, should be regarded as a street of thirty feet, and not as a street of fifty feet. The result of this would be that the houses would be limited to a height of forty-five feet—just about the height of the present three-storeyed buildings. I maintain such houses would be quite high enough for that street, seeing that, if there are verandahs on both sides, to make them any higher would be an insanitary thing to do. Let me give one other example under the existing law. A lane which is one inch over fifteen feet in width can be flanked on both sides by houses forty feet in height. This thing will go on, too, unless some one steps in and stops it. I again ask you, how much sunlight will penetrate to the houses in these lanes, when they rise to that height? Since this resolution was circulated to you I have amended sub-sections 3 and 4 the object being to further restrict verandahs and balconies and to give more ventilation and more air to domestic dwellings. The provisions contained in my resolution, if given the force of law, would undoubtedly excite great opposition, and owners of properties would cry out for compensation. Now, sir, on that point I would like to say this: If a man, say in Queen's Road, has erected already a house fifty-five feet in height, and you step in and say—"For every house coming down you shall not erect another in its place of a greater height than forty-five feet," then I say, sir, in my opinion such a man would have an equitable claim for compensation, and he ought to get it. But if a man has a house not over forty-five feet high, you simply make a law to say—"When you erect other houses you shall not exceed forty-five feet." I cannot see that that man, either in law or equity, has any claim to compensation. I do not want to take from any man what is legally or justly his, but the view I take appears to me to be a common-sense way of looking at it. I shall only say this in addition to what I have already said in support of my resolution—I am perfectly convinced that this question of limiting the height of buildings—limiting them further than the existing law demands, is one which must be tackled sooner or later. You cannot always allow houses to be erected in this colony to the height to which they can be erected under the existing law. If you do, you are defying one of the first principles of sanitation. If you overcrowd and surface crowd the city it cannot and will not be healthy to the inhabitants, and they must suffer. Now, sir, I venture to predict that if the colonists in this colony do not arise to a sense of the situation and prevent the houses in Queen's Road and elsewhere from being built to these ridiculous heights, they will most assuredly regret it, for the day is surely coming when all these houses will be raised to seventy-six feet in height, everyone of them. I say, that before many years they will all be erected to that height. The colonists will then have to take them down, and they will find that it will be a question not of days, but of years, and that compensation will have to be paid for every house in Queen's Road from one end to the other. I have used the term colonists, and by that I mean every person living in the colony, whether official or unofficial. It is one of the watchwords of wise statesmen not to legislate ahead of public opinion, and if that is true of any form of legislation, it is pre-eminently true of legislation in sanitary matters. No Government was ever willing to enact drastic sanitary legislation unless backed by a considerable share of public opinion. I say no Government is willing, and very few Governments attempt it, unless so backed. I speak from my knowledge of sanitary legislation, and that is why I use the word colonists. I appeal to all men who will sit down quietly and look a few years ahead—

not one year or two years, but fifty, sixty, and a hundred years. This colony of Hongkong is only a young colony, but it is going to grow into a very important colony and become one of the biggest trading centres in the British Empire. It is our duty to see that the colony is not hampered in that growth with a millstone tied round its neck in the shape of an insanitary city built in defiance of all sanitary principles accepted in other parts of the world.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding Mr. May's motion, said the Vice-President had made a very able speech on the subject, and there was practically nothing to add to it. He only wished to make one remark—he had sometimes wondered why the Board allowed such recommendations to go forward from it. The latest proposal permitted houses to be erected to a height equal to one and a half times the width of the street, and, as the Vice-President said, that enabled the houses in Queen's Road to be built to a height of seventy-five feet. The only benefit that accrued from the recent legislation was in the case of narrow streets. Over in Kowloon practically every road was fifty feet in width; some were sixty and some even seventy-five feet in width. Under these circumstances the recommendation of the Board that houses should be restricted to one and half times the width of the street had practically no effect. Under former legislation the height was seventy-six feet, and when it came to building to a height of seventy-five feet, owners of properties might as well be allowed to go an extra foot. The sooner the proposed restrictions were adopted the sooner would real progress be made in the direction of making Victoria a healthier city.

Dr. CLARK said he thought they were all in favour of the resolution. There was only one point in Mr. May's speech he wished to comment upon, and that was that gentleman's regret that the Board had acceded to the recommendation in the bill of 1899 governing the height of buildings. If memory served, the Board was practically forced into it. The bill was hung up for eighteen months, and was sent back again and again, finally to appear in the form they were discussing. The Government had asked the Board to prove by statistics that if they reduced the height of buildings they would check disease, but that was a question regarding which it was safe to assume there could be little doubt. Perhaps Mr. May would add something to that effect in his resolution?

Mr. MAY—No.

Dr. CLARK, continuing, said—On behalf of the Government, I went carefully into the sick returns of the Tung Wah Hospital for last year, and I showed to the satisfaction of the Government that the great bulk of sick people come from houses in narrow lanes and a small percentage from houses in wide streets.

Mr. OSBORNE—What Dr. Clark has said is perfectly true. The Sanitary Board, after this bill had been read once in Council and shelved for about two years, by dint of pegging away at the Government, got the bill at last, in a mangled form. I remember distinctly it was remarked that it was better to accept the bill, mangled though it was, than to go on as we were going and allow such buildings to be run up.

Mr. MAY said, in regard to the bill being hung up, that there was a change of Governor at the time, and it was hardly to be expected that the new Governor was going to take on a bill like that the first week of his arrival. Further, it was not fair to characterize the bill as mangled; they get what they asked for except in relation to the height of buildings.

After a short discussion as to the law at home governing the height of buildings, during which Dr. CLARK remarked that it was only recently that London had passed bye-laws restricting the height to the width of the street, and that many provincial towns, Liverpool excepted, allowed one and a half times, Mr. May's motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

TORPEDO WORKSHOPS ON THE KOWLOON PENINSULA.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the sale of a portion of the Kowloon Peninsula for the erection of new torpedo-workshops, etc. The correspondence had relation to the following letter, dated 2nd May, from Commodore

Powell's Secretary, M. F. G. Motton, to the Colonial Secretary:—"I am desired by the Commodore to enquire whether there is any objection on the part of the Colonial authorities of selling to the Admiralty the ground marked "Plateau" and "Rocky Promontory" on the accompanying plan, and if there is no objection, what would be the approximate cost? The land is required for the purpose of establishing a torpedo-store and workshop, and a range for testing torpedoes, and as deep water is found comparatively close to the shore off the promontory, it is not considered that a more suitable site can be found within the limits of the harbour."

The Director of Public Works was requested to report, which he did, to the effect that the area applied for was overlapped by the site of a segregation camp, and it was very probable that if the Admiralty were allowed to acquire a portion of the property they would object to the segregation camp being established in their vicinity. The pathway which formed the main route of communication between Kowloon and Tsim Wan and neighbouring villages crossed the area which the Admiralty desired to acquire. That route must be preserved in order to construct a good road at some future period, giving access to the villages referred to and to other portions of the New Territory. For these reasons the application would have to be modified, and it would also be desirable to ascertain what area must be reserved for the segregation camp. The President concluded his report by suggesting that the Sanitary Board be consulted.

The suggestion was adopted, and the matter submitted to the Board, with the following minute from H. E. the Governor:—"It appears to me that a segregation camp in this position will involve large expense in necessary arrangements to confine segregated people to the camp."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr Osborne—"I am under the impression that the whole peninsula was to be reserved for a segregation camp."

Dr. Clark—"The land should not be sold, as it is greatly needed by the Colonial Government."

Hon F. H. May—"I regard the segregation camp as a very necessary work, not so much for quarantine purposes as to help us to deal with plague in its initial stages."

The PRESIDENT moved that in the opinion of the Board it was inadvisable to part with any portion of this land.

Dr. CLARK seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

RATS ON THE PARADE GROUND.

Correspondence relative to the finding of rats in the neighbourhood of the parade ground was laid on the table. It included the following letter from Major-General Gascoigne to H. E. the Governor:—"My attention has been called to a statement made in the *China Mail* of last evening (17th inst.) in which it is said that it is believed that a very large number of rats have been found in the New Parade Ground, etc., etc. This is in continuation, no doubt, of some utterances of Dr. Clark at a recent meeting of the Sanitary Board. As your Excellency is aware, I, at the time, did not quite endorse the views entertained by Dr. Clark, and requested that the matter might receive further attention. Owing to an accident, my memo to your Excellency was not brought up before the Board, and as time had elapsed I thought it best to let the matter drop. But now that the matter has again cropped up, I request your Excellency to bring the matter up for full investigation. It is not for a moment suggested that Dr. Clark has made his statement loosely or carelessly. What is contended by Major Williams (in charge of the Parade Ground), is that Dr. Clark has been misinformed by his people as to the amount of rats found in the immediate neighbourhood. Major Williams' contention is that if rats in any number were found in the neighbourhood, he must have seen them, whereas with all the search possible made after his attention had been drawn to the matter, he has not seen them, neither have they been seen in any number in Murray Barracks. Only one dead rat has been found on the Parade Ground during the last eight months. Major Williams is himself living in a tent on the ground, and it would be impossible for rats in any number to be there without his seeing

them. Our contention is that the people from whom Dr. Clark has received his information have misled him. I would certainly desire therefore that attention should be drawn to this."

Dr. Clark was asked to report, and minuted as follows:—"The Inspector of the District reports that during the past two months over 2,200 dead rats have been found in the neighbourhood of the Parade Ground, and the cricket ground. This averages over 36 a day. Further comment is I think needless. These rats were collected within a radius of 200 yards of the Parade Ground, and if we count only those from the City Hall, Government Offices, Murray Barracks and Beaconsfield Arcade, they total 1,080 for the two months, or over 17 per day."

The PRESIDENT—I propose that this letter be laid on the table, and that no action be taken in regard to it.

This was agreed to.

RATS.

It was shown in tabular form that the return of rats purchased by the Sanitary Board during the week ended 22nd inst. was 2420. No. 3 Health District supplied 403, while the other districts yielded an average of 200 each, except districts Nos. 10 and 11, which yielded 83 and 76 respectively. Previous to the 20th April, there had been no rats from either of Districts Nos. 11 and 12. The other districts seem to have been furnishing a fair supply of rodents since the beginning of the year. The price of each rat purchased was increased from 2 cents to 3 cents on 24th January, and from that date up to 26th May there was a steady rise in purchases from 600 to 3,693 per week. On 1st June, the week's figures were 4,271, the following week saw an increase of 20, and the week ended 15th saw the number reduced by 6. The past week, ended 22nd inst., during which the plague epidemic has mitigated considerably, shows a substantial reduction of 811.

THE CLOSING OF A WELL.

The Board at its last meeting agreed to close and fill up a well at 14, Des Vœux Road Central, the water of which had been found to be unfit for potable purposes and liable to prove injurious to health.

A letter had since been received from Mr. R. C. Wilcox, on behalf of the owner of the premises, suggesting that in a colony where the supply of water is so uncertain, wells of the class alluded to should be closed, but not filled up, so that in case of fire in the dry weather they might become available for purposes of extinguishing fires. If this suggestion was agreed to, Mr. Wilcox was prepared, on behalf of the owner, to have the well covered over and locked, the key to be held by the principal resident in case of fire.

The following minutes were appended:—Dr. Clark—"If properly secured, there is no very great objection to the retention of the well for fire-extinguishing purposes."

Lieut.-Col. Hughes—"If covered over and locked, I see no objection."

Mr. Chan A Fook—"I applied some years ago for the same permission, and it was refused. I cannot see the justice of granting one and refusing the other. No distinction ought to be made with regard to wells, the water from which has been certified to be unfit for potable purposes. It should be closed up."

The PRESIDENT—I don't know what the feeling of members in regard to this matter is. The resolution of this Board was that the well should be closed, and I think that should be done.

This was agreed to.

A DISPUTE CONCERNING THE DRAINAGE OF HOUSES.

On the 17th inst. the Sanitary Board Surveyor Mr. W. Bryan, wrote to Messrs. Leigh and Orange re an application by them for a certificate of occupation for seventeen houses on Hongkong Inland Lots 222 and 223, of which they are the architects, informing them that before a certificate could be issued, the lane behind must be channelled and all sewage water led to the Government sewer.

Messrs. Leigh and Orange replied—"We wish to point that this work is the duty of the Government, and the owner having done his part under the conditions of sale and ordinance, we call upon you to grant the usual

certificate or bring this letter before the next meeting of your Board."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Bryan—"The houses are unfit for human habitation until adequate drainage is provided, and a certificate cannot be granted so long as this remains incomplete."

The President—"As Messrs. Leigh and Orange request that their letter be laid before the Board, this should be done. At the same time I do not see what action the Board can take in the matter."

Mr. Osborne—"If Messrs. Leigh and Orange's statement is correct, the certificate should be granted."

Dr. Bell—"Are Messrs. Leigh and Orange correct in their statement or not?"

Dr. Clark—"I take it that the whole question hangs on the conditions of sale, and the D.P.W. might inform the Board what these conditions are."

The PRESIDENT said that it was impossible to take any action in the matter until the lane had been properly surfaced and channelled, when the Board would issue the desired certificate.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS.

Under this heading Dr. Clark, in a paper submitted to the Board, suggested that a warning be inserted in both the European and Chinese Press to the following effect:—

1. The public ceilings and wooden skirting-boards, and lath and plaster partitions afford great facilities for rat runs, and the Sanitary Board strongly recommend that ceilings should, wherever possible, be dispensed with in offices and dwellings on the lower levels, and the exposed beams limewashed or painted.

2. Skirtings should be of cement and not of wood.

3. All rat-holes in walls or floors should at once be stopped up.

4. All gratings to drain-inlets should, wherever possible, be fastened, and broken ones replaced without delay.

5. No discarded food should be allowed to lie about in kitchens or yards.

6. All drains and drain-inlets, traps, etc., should be flushed daily with a bucket of clean water.

7. Coolie quarters should be regularly inspected and strict cleanliness enforced.

With regard to this last clause, I (Dr. Clark) regret to say that the coolie quarters of many of the offices and dwellings on the lower levels are allowed to get in a most filthy condition, owing in part no doubt to the fact that such quarters are often used in common by the servants of several firms. The maintenance of the cleanliness of such quarters is, both by law and by commonsense, the duty of the householder and not of the Sanitary Authority, and with plague epidemic in the colony, it is surely not unreasonable to ask that each firm should depute one of its assistants to make a daily or even weekly inspection of the coolie-quarters attached to the office, and to institute a quarterly lime-washing of all such quarters, instead of waiting for the occurrence of a case of plague, or the finding of a dead rat, and then having a grand clear-out of the accumulated filth of weeks or months.

The following minutes were appended:—

The President—"I agree with your recommendations except as regards No. 4. If you will alter the wording of it to 'should if possible be securely fastened,' that will meet my objection. The gratings must be removable in order to enable the trap to be cleaned out. It is a difficult matter to devise a fastening that cannot easily be tampered with, and at the same time not get out of order continually."

Mr. Osborne—"I would also recommend the Board to arrange to supply private inspectors for European offices and dwellings. Many firms and people would gladly pay for a European to look after servants' quarters."

The PRESIDENT could not see how the Board could take action in the matter referred to in Mr. Osborne's minute. He proposed that what Dr. Clark recommended be done.

Mr. OSBORNE spoke briefly in support of the recommendation contained in his minute, but was not prepared to make a motion in the matter.

The PRESIDENT's proposal was agreed to.

WILD DELL CLOSED.

On the motion of Mr. MAY, seconded by Dr. BELL, it was agreed, on the report of Dr. Clark, that Wild Dell was unfit for human

habitation, and the premises were declared closed until further notice.

BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

Dr. CLARK reported that the Arcade had been overhauled from roof to floor. In his opinion, if the building was not now fit for occupation, the only alternative would be to pull it down and rebuild it.

Mr. MAY moved and Lieut.-Col. HUGHES seconded that the premises be released. The motion was carried.

MATCHED HOSPITALS AT KOWLOON.

Dr. CLARK—It will be remembered that the Board at a recent meeting consented to the erection of two matchsheds at Kowloon Point by the Godown Company for the treatment of sick workmen. A number of petitions have come in protesting against it.

The PRESIDENT—I propose that the Government be notified that the Board approves of the removal of these hospital matchsheds from Kowloon Point.

The proposal was agreed to.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR THE COLONY.

The mortality statistics for the colony for the weeks ended the 8th and 15th June showed a death rate respectively of 45.2 and 44.4, as against 27.5 and 31.1 for the corresponding weeks of last year.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR MACAO.

The mortality return for Macao for the week ended 9th inst. shows 66 deaths, 17 of which were from plague. During the week ended 16th inst. there were 65 deaths, 28 being from plague.

THE PLAGUE.

Saturday, 22nd June.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 19 fresh cases of plague (18 Chinese, one other Asiatic) and 20 deaths (19 Chinese, one other Asiatic). The figures for the year are now:—1,046 cases, 1,334 deaths.

Bartholemew Balara, the Portuguese residing in Aberdeen Street, who was admitted to the Plague Hospital on Wednesday, died there yesterday morning. All the other European cases are reported to be progressing favourably.

Monday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on Saturday there were reported 17 fresh cases of plague (16 Chinese, one other Asiatic), and 20 deaths (all Chinese).

All Europeans under treatment doing fairly well. John Varcoe, the little boy admitted some time ago has been discharged as cured.

An Indian boy named Salomon has also been discharged as cured.

Abdoola, an Indian, who was recently picked up in an unconscious condition, died on Friday night.

Tuesday.

During the 48 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 33 fresh cases of plague (32 Chinese, one European) and 35 deaths (34 Chinese, one other Asiatic). Last week's figures were:—155 cases and 152 deaths; 15 of the cases were in the City of Victoria, 40 outside. The figures for the year are now:—1456 cases (1386 Chinese, 46 other Asiatics, 24 Europeans), and 1389 deaths (1348 Chinese, 32 other Asiatics, 9 Europeans).

The fresh European patient is Mr. Johannes Wacker, an assistant in the firm of Messrs. Carlowitz and Co.

Mr. D'Agostini, of H.M. Naval Yard, who was taken from Beaconsfield Arcade at an earlier stage of the epidemic suffering from plague, Albert Chunyut, engineer on the s.s. *Haiching*, and Francisco Rios, a Portuguese who was taken to the Plague Hospital from his residence in Bridge Street recently, have all been discharged as cured from Kennedy Town. All the other Europeans still under treatment are doing well.

Mr. Isidoro Francisco Leon, secretary of Messrs. Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd., died on Sunday night, it is rumoured, of plague, at his residence, 37, Caine Road. His funeral took place yesterday at 4.45 p.m., and was attended by many friends.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Primrose, wife of Capt. Primrose, who had been residing at Wild Dell, has contracted the disease. She was taken to the Kennedy Town Hospital at an early hour last night.

Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 9 fresh cases of plague (8 Chinese and one European), with 8 deaths (Chinese). It will be noticed that the drop in the figures is a very large one.

Mr. J. Wacker, of Messrs. Carlowitz and Company, whom we yesterday reported as having contracted plague, is likely to have a very mild attack.

Mrs. Primrose, the latest victim from Wild Dell (whose case is mentioned in the above returns) is stated to be fairly doing well.

Beaconsfield Arcade is being thoroughly overhauled by the owners, and will probably be ready for re-occupation by the end of the month.

We understand that the tenants of Wild Dell have been notified to quit their premises, and that the building will be thoroughly disinfected.

Thursday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 10 fresh cases of plague and 8 deaths (all Chinese).

Mrs. Primrose's condition is improving, and all the other European cases are still doing well.

Friday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday only one fresh case of plague was reported, with 5 deaths (all Chinese).

Mrs. Anna Krater, of the "Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock" Hotel, was discharged from Kennedy Town Plague Hospital yesterday morning.

In a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* issued yesterday a letter from Major-General Dorward, the Commissioner at Weihaiwei, dated the 17th inst., was published, wherein it was stated that as a preventive against the introduction of the plague a ten days' quarantine, reckoning from the date of departure from Hongkong, has been imposed on all vessels arriving at Weihaiwei from here.

Saturday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 5 fresh cases of plague and 3 deaths (all Chinese).

The year's total is now:—1,481 cases (1,410 Chinese, 46 other Asiatics, 25 Europeans), 1,413 deaths (1,372 Chinese, 32 other Asiatics, 9 Europeans).

There are no fresh European cases, and those convalescent in hospital maintain the same steady progress towards recovery.

THE CHINESE MISSION TO GERMANY.

The following officers form the suite of Prince Chun on his mission to Germany:—

Name	Rank	Duty
Cheung Yik	Chancellor	Acting as Adviser
Yam Cheong	Assistant Tartar	Secretary
Leung Shing	General	Secretary
Mak Shun Kin	Taotai	Secretary
Liu Cho Kwai	"	Secretary
Chang Yin	Assistant Secretary of Board	Attendant
Tsang Kwang Yung	"	Attendant
Wong Foon	Prefect	Attendant
Chi Kak	"	Translator
Ng Chung Yin	Sub-Prefect	Translator
Yeung Shu Man	Magistrate	Translator
Tong Ka Ching	Magistrate	Translator
Man Yam Son	Sub-Magistrate	Translator
Wong Ying Sui	"	Doctor

The Mission will start from Peking on the 12th July, proceeding to Shanghai, which it will leave on the 20th July by the German mail steamer *Bayern*.

It is expected, as a result of the recent publication of General Sir Alfred Gaselee's despatch, that a *Gazette* will be published at an early date conferring honours upon those who have distinguished themselves in China. These will be upon the Indian scale. General Gaselee himself has more than maintained the reputation which he won on the North-West Frontier, and it is understood that his personal reward will be the G.C.B. promotion to the rank of major-general (he is only a substantive colonel now, though locally a lieutenant-general), and the command of the first-class district in India rendered vacant by the promotion of Lieutenant-General Jennings.

FATAL FIRE ON BOARD SHIP.

NINE LIVES LOST.

About 9 p.m. on Tuesday, the 25th ult. fire broke out in the shaft-tunnel of the American steamer *Arethusa*—a water-tender to the ships of the U.S. Navy—at present, in the docks at Hunghom for repairs. A number of Chinese workmen—fitters and coolies—were repairing the shaft when the fire started. Two fitters were burned to death, and seven others, four fitters and three coolies, were terribly injured before they could be rescued. One of the fitters who had been removed home by his friends has since died, making a total of three deaths. The other three fitters were in a serious condition. The three coolies, whose injuries were not quite so serious, refused to go to hospital, and were taken to their own homes for treatment. The bodies of the three dead fitters were sent to the mortuary by the police.

Enquiries on the spot on the 26th ult. showed that the accident was even more serious than first accounts would lead one to believe. The alarm that fire had broken out on the *Arethusa* was raised at half-past eight o'clock in the evening. Running in the direction of No. 1 dock, where the *Arethusa* lies, the superintendent of the dock watching staff met three Chinamen stumbling from the scene of the accident. These were workmen who had been rescued or had escaped from the shaft-tunnel of the vessel. All were black from head to foot, and apparently badly injured. One dropped at the pumping station opposite No. 2 dock, but the other two were able to keep their feet and presumably to reach their homes. The man who had fallen was attended by some of the dock staff, and was rubbed over with lard to alleviate the pain of his burns. He was left alone for a few minutes, and his friends took the opportunity to smuggle him out of the docks to his home, where he died soon afterwards. Two other workmen from the *Arethusa*, also very badly burnt, were found lying on the top of some wood-piles, and another was stretched out on one of the ship's hatches. These men were attended by Dr. Buchanan, attached to the steamer *Australian* (now lying in No. 2 dock). Dr. Buchanan hurried to the scene of the accident when the news of its occurrence reached him, and rendered invaluable assistance in attending to the injured men. When the superintendent of the dock watchmen reached the *Arethusa*, great volumes of smoke were issuing from the ventilators leading to the shaft tunnel. The *Arethusa*'s hands were already playing water on the flames, and to assist them two of the dock fire-hoses were rigged up and directed on the fire, which was soon extinguished. The captain and officers of the *Arethusa* then set to work to rescue those who were still in the tunnel. It was known that nine workmen had gone down, and in about ten minutes all were accounted for. Two were dead, and the others horribly burnt. Word had been sent to the police stations at Yau-mati and Hunghom, and at nine o'clock two parties of constables under Inspector Macdonald and Sergeants McSwayed and Gordon arrived at the docks. They immediately directed their attention to the victims of the accident, and had the injured removed to the hospital and the dead to the mortuary.

The three fitters who were admitted to hospital have all died since, thus, with the other deaths reported, bringing the total up to seven. The remaining two out of the nine unfortunate workmen were removed to hospital yesterday, and at a late hour last night were still alive. The bodies presented a horrible appearance. One youth removed by a police sergeant had both feet burned off.

As to the cause of the accident there is a great deal of uncertainty. So far as can be gathered, however, it appears that the coupling bolts were being unscrewed to enable the shaft to be taken out. By accident, a heavy brass nut fell upon a large tin of copal varnish, knocking a hole in it. A naked light was being used, and the flame, reaching the tin of varnish, set it in a blaze at once. As may be readily understood, with such inflammable material as the oily, greasy shaft-tunnel of the vessel contained, the flames spread very rapidly. Beyond this oil and grease, however, there was nothing to give the fire a hold, and it quickly died out, leaving behind

dense volumes of smoke that curled thickly out of every little oranny. The unfortunate workmen are supposed to have been overcome by the smoke, as, though the shaft tunnel is only from four to five feet high, escape was not difficult. No damage was done to the vessel.

Another death occurred on the 28th ult., one of the coolies in Hospital succumbing; and yet another, the ninth, has since been found dead in his lodgings, where he had been removed by his friends after the fire. The tenth man still lies in a precarious condition in the Government Civil Hospital.

MOHAMMEDANS IN CHINA.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 21st inst., in an editorial on the Turkish mission to China, has the following:—

"After the three weeks' stay at Shanghai of the mission sent by the Sultan to warn the Mohammedan population of China not to rebel against the Chinese Government, it has returned via Japan and Vladivostok and through Siberia to Europe. And though the universally expressed opinion was that there was no danger at any time that the Mohammedans of China would raise the flag of rebellion, still we are convinced that the mission was not without its beneficial results. It cannot be denied that the feelings of the delegates were anything but sanguine when first they set foot on Chinese soil. Some wiseacres, claiming a thorough knowledge of the situation, deluded the mission into the belief that there was no connection between the Mohammedans of West Asia and those of East Europe, that the Mussulmen of China know nothing of the Khalif of the Golden Horn. A certain plausibility was lent to this statement by the fact that the Mohammedans of the Chinese empire, especially those of Turkestan, often found, on political grounds no doubt, in the Tsar a promoter of their projects and desires. This may possibly influence the Mohammedans in the Chinese empire to a certain extent. But the last week has dispelled all fears of that nature that may have been felt by the mission. Enver Pasha clearly established the fact that the Mohammedans of the whole of China look upon the Khalif of Constantinople as their spiritual head; so much so that even in political questions they acknowledge his right to direct them. This fact is of great importance, and with whomsoever the thought arose to appeal to the Sultan to use his influence to prevent a rising of his co-religionists in China, or to deprive it of its strength, and thereby indirectly add another guarantee for the integrity of China, it was certainly a thought fully justified."

The writer, continuing, says that the Sultan's influence on his co-religionists in China may certainly prove of vast importance in the future. Mohammedans in China have never yet been persecuted on account of their religious belief. Even in 1860 to 1873, when in the province of Kansu whole towns and districts occupied by Mohammedans were destroyed, not one of the 20,000 Mussulmen living in Peking had a hair of his head harmed. All outbreaks of that nature were aroused by the Mohammedans trying to gain political predominance. Dr. Martineau puts the number of Mohammedans in the Chinese Empire at ten millions, and this is approximately correct. And as they are not equally distributed all over the country, but only in the sparsely populated western and northern parts of the empire, it is not impossible that they may try again to get one or other part of the land under their absolute control. The result of such risings has been seen again and again. That the Chinese government does not possess the power to deal successfully with such risings has been proved by the occurrences of last year. Local risings will in the future again compel the European powers to interfere; "and no one can deny," continues the writer, "that this sort of interference is dangerous to the continuance of the integrity of the Chinese empire." In conclusion the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* says: "In any case, it is soothing to know that in case of a Mohammedan rising in China the Sultan is in a position to give very important help to the Allied Powers."

It may be noted, in connection with this article in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, that the St.

Petersburg *Novoe Vremya* declares that of his own initiative the Sultan would never have dreamed of such a mission, and the movement is undoubtedly the result of German intrigues at the Porte. It is Germany which has been insinuating into the Sultan this new creed of Pan Islamism, and Russia will be the first and greatest sufferer from any practical outcome of the new idea. "However great be the value to us of the Far East, it cannot stand comparison with that of the Near East. The true interests of the Slav peoples in an outlet to the sea—not far away, but through the Turkish Straits and the Persian Gulf; no Port Arthur, no Shanhaikwan, no Peiho River can replace for us the Bosphorus. Our policy in the Far East is strictly a national one, but we ought to have brought this Turkish mission into combination with it, instead of leaving the Germans to become its patrons."

CHINA SQUADRON PRIZE-FIRING.

NEW HEAVY GUN RECORD.

H.M.S. *Terrible* has again made some phenomenal shooting with her heavy guns at the annual prize-firing recently carried out at Weihaiwei. It will be remembered that last year this ship established a World's Record with her shooting; the high percentage then obtained (76.8) creating no small amount of criticism in Service circles. On the present occasion the *Terrible* has made 89 per cent. of hits on the targets, thus breaking her previous record, which performance should dispel any suspicion that the score of last year was subject to either chance or capricious firing. This achievement has undoubtedly made the fact patent that it is quite possible to obtain a high average if high training is imparted to the men, and it is also apparent that gunnery in this particular ship is not made subordinate to subjects of less vital importance. One has only to glance through the shooting returns of the navy to see that there is much to be desired in this direction. Our present ship-building policy is highly commendable, but it is no use to pin our faith in numbers of ships unless their crews can shoot straight. The returns show that not a few ships only make a quarter of the percentage the *Terrible* has now made, and to reach half those figures has hitherto been considered very good shooting.

In a Fleet Order issued by Admiral Sir Edward Seymour last year, that distinguished officer, after praising the personnel of his squadron for their gallant war services in North China, stated that "he had no misgiving but that whatever is before us, we shall, if possible, do better rather than otherwise, and uphold the best traditions of the British Navy." Those words condensed mean good shooting. It would require much explanation to show why one ship stands out alone in the Navy in producing such excellent results as prize firing on two successive occasions, and Captain Scott is to be congratulated on his repeated record-breaking—exemplified both on the *Cylla* and the *Terrible*.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 22nd June.

THE FANTAN GAMBLING MONOPOLY.

A syndicate residing at Canton has farmed from the Viceroy the monopoly for fantan gambling for the whole of Kwangtung province at the large sum of \$8,000,000 for one year only. The afore-mentioned syndicate has subfarmed the monopoly for the local prefectures of Chowchowfu, including Swatow, Kiayingchow and Huichow, to a few local gentry for the sum of \$320,000. This is the first time in the annals of the above districts that gambling has been legally permitted, and its attendant evils are now beginning to be felt.

THE CONSEQUENCES.

Although gambling dens have existed here for a considerable time, they could on the least complaint be made to close up; but now complaints are of no avail whatever. Since legal permission has been extended to it, gambling has become a public nuisance and a great loss to the native merchants. Of late when employers of Hongts have been entrusted with

money for transmission to various places, instead of delivering the money at its destination they have often gone and lost it all at the gambling dens which are now scattered all over the place. With a view of abating this evil, the native merchants collectively sent a petition to the

CHINGHAI MAGISTRATE

soliciting his interference. This worthy, however, returned the petition to the merchants, having written across the petition that gambling is legally permitted and that he is powerless to do anything.

MERCHANTS' ACTION.

In view of the above decision and with the object of preventing further losses to themselves, the merchants' guild convened a meeting at which three resolutions were adopted, viz:—

1.—Any Hong wishing to adhere to these three resolutions has to sign same, to the effect that if any member of the Hong be reported to frequent gambling dens, the informer thereof to be paid the sum of \$20 by the Hong concerned.

2.—If an employee be dismissed from a Hong for gambling, such employee is not to be engaged by the other Hongts who have entered into this agreement. Breach of this rule entails a fine of \$200.

3.—The above-mentioned rules are merely for the guidance and mutual protection of the Hongts, and the various merchants are invited to sign the agreement so as to minimise the gambling craze.

A FOREIGNER SUFFERS LOSS.

A local doctor who employs a native shroff for collecting payment of bills has been defrauded by the latter to the tune of about \$700, the greater part of which the shroff lost in gambling. He cleared out before the fraud was detected. On having had the gambling dens pointed out to him, the doctor complained to his Consul, who recovered about \$360.

A NEW LOTTERY.

By sanction of the Taotai, who no doubt gets his squeeze, a new lottery has been established here since last month, and there are to be regular monthly drawings.

H. M. S. "HERMION"

arrived here from Amoy on the 20th instant.

HOIHOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

18th June.

RE-HOISTING THE FLAG.

The British flag, which has not flown in Hainan for 14 months, was re-hoisted on May 28th at the British Consulate. Its absence during that time has not been due to any cessation of friendly relations between the British and Chinese Governments, but to the fact that owing to the abandonment of the old and the building of the new Consulate there was no place where it could be hoisted until the new buildings had been completed. These being now finished, and the fine flagstaff, 100 feet high and weighing over two tons, having been successfully erected, the flag was re-hoisted by the Consul amid the sound of many crackers and the congratulations of both Chinese and foreign residents. The new flagstaff forms a conspicuous landmark in Hoihow. In the evening the Consulate grounds were prettily illuminated with red, white, and blue lanterns; and in the course of a speech which he made during a dinner given by him, Mr. Werner, the British Consul, said that he thought all must agree that, on the whole, the British flag had been on the side of truth and justice, and of the oppressed against the oppressor. But flags were sign of division—often of hostile division: they showed this sometimes in the symbols they bore—lions, tigers, elephants, eagles, fierce dragons, etc. He looked forward to a time when all the nations of the world would be united under one flag, and work together for the cause of peace and civilisation; and he thought that the best flag for that purpose would be the flag of Jesus Christ.

NO PLAGUE.

Though the districts to the east and west of Hoihow have been seriously affected, Hoihow itself has this year escaped anything which could rightly be described as an epidemic of plague. The severity of the disease last summer may account for the present immunity.

WEIHAIWEI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Weihaiwei, 21st June.

THE ADMIRAL'S CUP.

The sailing race for the Admiral's Cup took place here on the 18th inst. A triangular course was selected inside the bay, the boats sailing round the mark-buoys twice. The race, which was well entered for, produced an unusual amount of interest, as it was the last cup that the squadron will sail for under the regime of the present Commander-in-Chief, Sir E. Seymour, by whom the cup is presented.

A splendid breeze—not too strong—enabled all classes of boats to compete without any disadvantages, and to carry every stitch of sail that could be hoisted without any risk. Private rigs being allowed, most of the competitors adopted them, the larger boom boats of the *Centurion* and *Argonaut* resembling British revenue-cutters giving chase. The result of the race gave the *Isis* the cup, the *Centurion* taking second place, and the *Terrible's* pinnace being third. The latter boat, sailed by Commander Ogilvy, only used a service rig.

Another cup is being sailed for to-day by midshipmen of the fleet, each officer sailing the boat to which he is attached for duty. At the time of writing the race has not finished.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

A strong fleet is now assembled here. Both flagships are present, but on Monday next, the Rear-Admiral's and all other larger ships leave for Chefoo and other ports, probably returning here again after the transfer of command. The new Commander-in-Chief, Sir Cyprian Bridge, is expected on the 24th inst. from Japan in his flagship the *Glory*; the *Centurion*, with Sir E. Seymour, leaving for England on the 26th. Owing to the plague it is expected the *Centurion* will not call at Hongkong, but proceed to Singapore. An impressive farewell order from Sir E. Seymour was read out last Sunday after Church Service on board all ships of the fleet, in which the China Squadron was mentioned as being second in importance only to the Imperial Fleets on the various stations. Their efficiency, he stated, must be maintained to meet any duty the Squadron might unexpectedly be called upon to perform; as was the case last year. It goes without saying that Sir E. Seymour has found a warm spot in the hearts of both officers and men, who in this age, recognise and appreciate a good leader when they discover one—and such this distinguished Admiral has proved himself.

[“N.C. DAILY NEWS” CORRESPONDENT.]

Weihaiwei, 10th June.

THE LAUNCH SERVICE.

So long maintained partly by private effort and subsidised by Government, has ceased to exist. The proprietor threatened to withdraw his boat when a proposal was made to reduce the subsidy and to limit the number of passengers. He has made good that threat. Government for their own convenience run a launch twice daily, but so far as the convenience of private residents and visitors to this health resort is concerned, the last state of the place is worse than the first. The inconvenience becomes a hardship to private individuals living on the mainland.

Eventually the seat of colonial government will almost certainly be in Mahto, to the north of the harbour. At present the commissioner's residence and the naval and military headquarters are all on Liukungtao. The cable of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company also lands on the island. The steamship companies have their offices there. The dweller in Mahto requires the best part of a day, if he wishes to make sure of the meeting some passing vessel. Our local news sheet, *The Weihaiwei Gazette*, reaches subscribers on the other side of the water as a rule, 24 hours after issue on the island! When it is stated that there is not even a cable connecting the island and mainland, the isolation of the civilian living on the latter can be realised. From whatever point the question is viewed the lapse of steam communication across the harbour for those willing to pay a reasonable charge is distinctly a retrograde step in the general development of a port, which, considering its very great natural

advantages, should, with a little ‘nursing,’ grow into the most important sanitarium and sea-side resort of North China.

Capital invested in land, and in buildings erected in excellent situations for the convenience of visitors coming here for the summer months, has hitherto secured very little interest. The crisis in the North prevented an influx of visitors last season. This year there is no such obstacle. Surely—if no other reason exists—the prospect of a possible increase of revenue from a colony that is anything but self-supporting should lead to some special effort being made to create easy communication and increase the general attractiveness of the port.

THE STEAMER COMPANIES.

But if we have gone from bad to worse as regards means of communication between important parts of the colony, the situation as regards our intercourse with the treaty ports is still more serious. Almost daily steamers flying the British flag pass within sight of this harbour, but leave us severely alone. The companies ask as subsidy a sum that on the face of it seems absurd—\$300 for each ship calling here! It should be borne in mind that a steamer need only turn a few miles from her course, and if passing through with passengers and mails only for this port, need scarcely drop an anchor. As it is, the cargo brought here in the ordinary course of business is sufficient for a steamer from Shanghai to call on the average once a week. But there are no exports, and therefore there is little, if any, inducement for steamers to come in on their way to Shanghai. It is the accepted policy of the British Government to leave as much as possible to private enterprise, and to avoid the bolstering up of industries by subsidies. Apart from this, owing to our entanglement in South Africa, funds generally available for the improvement of distant colonies and stations are scarce. Nevertheless the authorities are prepared to subsidise to some extent, but the long-standing difference with companies trading under the protection of the British flag, as to the exact amount of subsidy, is no nearer settlement. Rather than submit to coercion, the expensive and unsatisfactory expedient of sending a gunboat to Chefoo to fetch the mails is very frequently adopted. The cost in coal alone for each trip of a boat, as small even as *H.M.S. Britomart*, cannot be much less than \$150. It is understood that a local firm has offered to run a launch twice a week for a subsidy of \$800 *per mensem*. The offer does not appear to have had a favourable reception. I have it on reliable authority that negotiations have been opened with a Japanese firm, and it is not unlikely that we shall have the trade of the new English colony pass into the hand of outsiders satisfied with a smaller subsidy. We may accept as one of the principles governing commercial life both of private individuals and of corporations, that where Government contracts are concerned the profits should be well above the average. But in this particular case we may well ask where *esprit de corps* and patriotism comes in. By their persistent endeavour to coerce Government into offering a subsidy altogether out of proportion to the service rendered, it almost looks as if the British steamer companies will allow business of much potential value to pass out of their hands altogether.

The *Pinang Gazette* sympathetically comments on the third article which appeared as ‘The Need of Municipal Freedom in Hongkong,’ and concludes by saying:—We who live under the benign influence of a Municipal Commission know that beatification does not always follow in the wake of a Municipal Council, but if Hongkong wants a Municipal Board in place of a Sanitary one, and can get a sufficient number of responsible ratepayers to form it, we do not see that the Government should raise any objection. As far as can be judged from the papers, there is widespread dissatisfaction at present in that Colony, and in any case the remedy can scarcely be worse than the disease; though whether it will be very much better will depend entirely upon the ratepayers and the interest they take in its formation and efficient upkeep.

FOOCHOW

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 22nd June:—

The fire on Wednesday night between Mr. Melnikoff's house and Ewo garden was not a very serious affair, though there was a good deal with of noise in connection the moving of fire-engines to the spot.

In accordance with time-honoured custom about this period of the year the river is full to overflowing and the bridges are impassable. The Race-Course and Recreation Ground are under water, as is also much of the low-lying land about, but there is no great depth of water, and the paddy fields appear to have no more, so far, than they can comfortably manage with.

Mr. C. le Bas Rickman, lately Acting Deputy Commissioner of Customs at this port, is voluntarily retiring from the service and going home. No one can gainsay the actions of the I.G., but it does appear somewhat hard that 21 years' good service should have met with no recognition when the opportunity presented itself, and that Mr. Rickman should be driven to adopt the only course left open to him, namely, to resign. It is with regret we part with him, and the circumstances under which he is going make his leaving us doubly regrettable. In his official capacity he was always courteous and obliging, and socially he was very much liked and made many friends. He leaves with Mrs. Rickman and his family by the German Mail to-morrow, and the good wishes of the community will go with the travellers.

Our new Deputy Commissioner of Customs is Mr. F. W. Mase, and whatever may be passing in our minds about the iniquity of overlooking the merits of long good service as intimated in the above note, this appointment of the I.G.'s will find favour with this community, if it has not already done so.

We have to congratulate Mr. G. H. Macgregor, Superintendent of the Joint Telegraph Companies here, on his promotion. He leaves for Banjoewangie to-morrow, and we wish him *bon voyage*.

The business passing in the tea market has been small this week as compared with last year and previous years at this early period of the season. Prices for Congou are easier, but the tea men must lower them yet considerably before the normal daily June transactions can be expected to take place.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 15th June:—

Li Hung-chang's family arrived here on Wednesday afternoon, and proceeded direct to Peking after a brief halt.

The villages west of Peking are being heavily taxed by the brigands whom they are compelled to support both in money and kind.

Yuan Shih-kai has adopted the plan of the Provisional Government in having a box for the reception of petitions and suggestions of reform. Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang are strongly opposed to the Court's proposal to institute a poll tax, as they opine it must inevitably lead to trouble in the country.

The ‘Allied Villages’ movement is reported to be spreading in all directions, and it is now stated the Russians have had trouble with them beyond Shanhaikuan.

The Chinese believe the fire in the Palace must have been caused by electricity, as no one was in the building, which is a detached one without anyone living near it.

Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang are reported to have solicited the aid of a Japanese official in the Municipal control of Peking, but we have serious doubt as to the truth of this.

The Chinese plenipotentiaries are endeavouring to get the Foreign Legations to choose an entirely new site outside the Tartar City, offering to pay all expenses of removal and erection of spacious legations and barracks.

The Imperial silk looms at Soochow and Ningchow are to be stopped, and added to the silk factory at Hangchow, so that greater economy may be exercised in the supply of the Imperial silks, from one factory instead of three.

The *Jé Jé* comments on the English schools being opened in the City by Chinese who are

not only uneducated in Chinese but only know a smattering of English. The teachers make a considerable profit out of selling foreign books and stationery to their pupils.

An Edict of the 5th inst. orders students of the Hanlin College to turn their attention to the study of the national history, national laws, international treaties and laws, and the sciences, and prohibits such exhaustive study of poetry and classics as has prevailed hitherto.

In Honan near the borders of Chihli Province a Society calling itself the Heavenly Society recently started and enrolled several thousand members, each of whom wore a ring on the right hand with the characters of the Society. The leader has been arrested by an official named Ching Fu-hsien and the Society will probably be broken up.

POLICE PROMENADE CONCERT.

Last Saturday proved a red-letter day for the Hongkong police force, as, for the first time in the history of the Colony, the doughty defenders of the law proved that they could also be equally good as entertainers. The occasion was a promenade concert given by the force. First attempts of this nature usually require that a great deal of allowance be made on the score of its being the "first time"; last Saturday's concert, however, required no such indulgence.

The parade-ground looked like a Mid-summer Night's Dream with its myriads of Chinese lanterns and flags, the impromptu stage was tastefully decorated with flags of all nations; and the whole combined gave an exceedingly pretty effect.

The musical bill of fare was large and varied, and also of the best quality. Not the least of the pleasant features (to some possibly the most pleasant) was the bar, at which drinks of all kinds were dispensed *ad libitum* and free, and if patronage is any criterion to appreciation, that particular generosity on the part of the genial hosts was certainly appreciated. There was no hitch during the whole proceedings, the only mistake being made by the weather clerk, who caused a shower to drive the audience under shelter just before half of the programme had been gone through.

The entertainment opened with an overture by the band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, followed by the song, "Fiona" by Mr. George, who with his magnificent voice at once became a favourite. A banjo solo by Mr. Parker was well received, as was Mrs. Whitehouse's perfect rendering of "The Amorous Goldfish," and the "Gates of the West." Hongkong's great amateur comedian, Mr. Viggers, gave "Then I understood," and "A Hunting" as an encore, and in the second part, the parody on "Tell me, Mother Darling" with "Poor Thing" as an encore. Needless to say, his songs raised storms of applause. Two instrumental trios—piano, Miss Parker; violins, Messrs. Stringer and Doring—were very well executed. Miss Parker's performance on the piano deserves special mention, as she certainly is an exceptionally talented player. Mrs. Stringer being ill, Sergeant French, R.A., sang "Queen of the Earth" and "Mona" as an encore. Both songs were well rendered and appreciated. Mrs. Brand was heard to advantage in "The Old Country" and a selected song. She has a sweet voice, which somewhat suffered by the performance being in the open air. Mr. Richardson as the "Irish Mash'r" in a song and dance, and again in a clog dance, was very good. Mr. Burgess rendered the patriotic and popular song "What do you think of the Irish now?" exceptionally well, and gave as an encore "In the Middle of the Road," a comic song, and in the second part the "White-wash Party." Messrs. French and Doring's duet was well rendered and deservedly appreciated. It was midnight ere "God Save the King" was reached.

The entertainment proved a grand success in every way, and did great credit to the Committee, composed of Messrs. George, Lander, Brazil, Kerr, Pitt, McSwayed, Devney, Baird, Brown, Grant (Hon. Treas.), Withers (Hon. Sec.) and Inspector Hansen (Chairman).

The Consular Body and Customs at Shanghai have declared Port Arthur an infected port.

OPEN-AIR CONCERT AT THE PEAK.

To provide for such diversity of tastes as were represented in the audience at the Fusiliers' open-air concert on Thursday evening was rather an undertaking; but that the purveyors were successful was evidenced by the fact that very few left until after the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a conclusion. The concert-ground was resplendent with Chinese lanterns, and the temporary staging was decked with flags, which lent quite a martial look to the proceedings. The selections by the band were performed in the thorough manner one has learned to expect from the R.W.F.; but we might suggest that *A Runaway Girl* and *The Belle of New York* selections are getting slightly stale.

Bandman Pearce, who is possessed of a tenor voice of no mean quality, sang "Mona" very acceptably; while Sergt. Adams aroused the patriotic element by his spirited rendering of "Britannia's Sons." The trombone quartette by Sergt. Hunt and Bandsmen Thompson, Hughes, and Green was one of the features of the evening, the tone and combination being first-class. An humorous element was introduced in the shape of a selection in costume, by seven members of the band, entitled "The Village Musicians." The acrobatic conducting of the bandmaster, Li Chang, Mus. Bac., evoked roars of laughter; and if gymnastics were a necessary qualification for his degree in music, Li Chang must have qualified with first-class honours. We must not forget to mention the violin solo by Mr. Dale, R.W.F., who brought out the tone of his instrument in masterly fashion, having to concede an encore. No one, be he ever so fastidious, could have found fault with the descriptive selection Haydn's "Farewell Symphony," in which as each instrumentalist finishes his share of the harmony he turns out his light and retires to rest from his labours. This process of reduction continues until there are only two left; and after playing an impressive duet, they also depart. This was a fitting termination to a splendidly varied programme. We trust the Fusiliers will favour the colony with another concert on the same lines in the near future. The civilian portion of the audience, though not large, was very appreciative. His Excellency the Governor was present.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING CO., LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in the above Company took place on the 27th ult. at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., with the Hon. J. J. Bell Irving in the chair. There were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. A. Haupt, K. McK. Ross, C.W. Dickson, A. Shaw, D. Gillies, A. Finke, Smyth, B. Byramjee, V. H. Deacon, Ho Fook, A. Brooke-Smith (secretary), and others.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed the shareholders as follows:—

Gentlemen—The report and statement of accounts covering the period from 16th August last to 31st May have been in your possession for some days, and with your permission I propose to treat them as read. The financial position of the Company during that period having become less satisfactory, mainly owing to the heavy charge for interest and the high price of raw cotton without a corresponding increase in the market value of yarn, the General Managers and Consulting Committee decided to close the Mill on 3rd April last and to render to Shareholders a statement of accounts showing the actual state of affairs. As stated in the circular issued to Shareholders, the estimated debts with interest thereon due by the Company on the 30th inst. after allowing for the proceeds of yarn, which has all been sold, will amount to \$1,130,000. I propose to reserve my further remarks on the present position and future of the Company until the

Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, which will be held immediately after this meeting, but meanwhile if any shareholder desires more detailed information than is stated in the report, accounts and circular, I shall be pleased to give it.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN moved that the report be adopted; this was seconded by Mr. GILLIES and carried *unanimously*.

Proposed by Mr. BYRAMJEE that the present Consulting Committee, to wit the Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Hon. C. P. Chater, C. M. G., and Mr. A. Haupt, be re-elected. Mr. K. McK. Ross seconded. Carried unanimously.

Mr. SMYTH moved and Mr. YUEN HOP seconded that Mr. W. Hutton Potts be re-elected Auditor. Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, the Extraordinary Meeting of which you have received notice will take place at 4.30.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

At the above-stated time the SECRETARY of the Company read the notice convening the meeting and the resolutions, which are as follows:—

1.—"That the Capital of the Company be reduced from the sum of \$1,200,000 divided into 12,000 Shares of \$100 each to the sum of \$90,000 divided into 9,000 fully paid up Shares of \$10 each, and that such reduction be effected by cancelling 3,000 of the existing Shares which have not been issued and by cancelling capital which has been lost or is unrepresented by available assets to the extent of \$9 per Share upon each of the 9,000 fully paid up Shares which have been issued and are now outstanding."

2.—"That as soon as reasonably may be after the confirmation by the Supreme Court of Hongkong of the reduction of the Company's Capital to the sum of \$90,000 divided into 9,000 fully paid up Shares of \$10 each the Capital of the Company shall be increased to the sum of \$1,250,000 by the creation of 116,000 new Shares of \$10 each to be paid in full on application, and that of such new Shares at least one moiety be reserved for the General Managers and the remainder be in the first instance offered to the Public, and that if the Public do not take up such remainder or do take up only a portion thereof then all such shares as shall not be taken up by the Public shall be offered to the General Managers, and that the General Managers be and they are hereby authorized to issue all such notices and documents, fix all such times and take all such steps as they may consider necessary to give effect to this resolution."

3.—"That the definition of the words 'The Company' 'This Company' in Article 2 of the existing Articles of Association be cancelled and that in lieu thereof the words 'The Company' 'This Company' shall, unless such a meaning is excluded by the subject or context, mean 'The Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited.'"

4.—"That in paragraph 7 of Article XI of the existing Articles of Association the words 'seven days' notice' be substituted for the words 'fourteen days' notice.'"

5.—"That paragraph 11 of Article XV of the existing Articles of Association and its marginal note be cancelled and that in lieu thereof the following paragraph and marginal note be substituted, namely:—

"11.—The General Managers shall Remuneration be paid or allowed to deduct by way of remuneration for conducting and transacting the business of the Company a commission of ten per centum on the net profits of every year, and also a sum not exceeding \$5,000 per annum to cover office expenses in carrying on the business of the Company."

6.—"That when and so soon as all the before mentioned 116,000 new fully paid up Shares of \$10 each have been taken up and issued the figures and words '500 Shares' shall be substituted for the figures and words '100 Shares' in the third paragraph of Article XVII of the existing Articles of Association and in subparagraph (1) of the fourth paragraph of the same Article."

The resolutions having being read, the CHAIRMAN addressed the shareholders as follows:—

Gentlemen:—This Extraordinary General Meeting has been called in order that the General Managers might have an opportunity of again putting before you the position of the Company, and of ascertaining from you what you consider would now be the best course to adopt in order to safeguard your own interests. The circular dated the 12th inst., which was posted to each shareholder, would fully acquaint you with the present position of the Company. You are aware that from a variety of causes the cost of building and equipping the Mill very much exceeded the estimate made when the Company was floated, but it is necessary you should understand that although the Capital was fixed at \$1,200,000, it was never contemplated that such a sum would suffice for the purposes mentioned. The idea which then prevailed was that the balance required for that and for working capital could be raised by debentures, which it was thought could be issued at a rate of interest below the prospective earning power of the Mill, and that thus there would be a distinct benefit to shareholders. It was further anticipated that 3,000 shares not then issued could be placed at not below par, as and when the money was required, but unfortunately it has never been possible to realise either of these expectations, and the necessary funds to complete the Mill and to work it were provided by the General Managers, the amount thus advanced being at one time \$1,656,000. It was not to be expected that with unskilled operatives we should at the very commencement show profitable results, but unforeseen difficulties, such as the outbreak of plague (which was very severe last year in the neighbourhood of the Mill), with its attendant restrictions, considerably retarded their becoming efficient as many of them eventually were. It is, however, as I already stated at the ordinary meeting, to the abnormally high prices ruling for cotton during the greater period of our running without a corresponding advance in the price of yarn, due in a measure to the recent troubles in North China, together with interest on the large sum borrowed, that the position in which the Company now finds itself must be chiefly attributed. The General Managers and Consulting Committee recognised that after paying interest upon the heavy debt thus contracted there was no likelihood of being able to give in addition a satisfactory return upon a capital of \$900,000 out of the profit which in normal times might reasonably be expected, and decided it was unadvisable to continue working under existing conditions. The Mill was accordingly closed on the 3rd. As mentioned in the circular issued to shareholders, it is for you to decide what has now to be done. There are, it seems to me, only two courses open to you—liquidation, or reconstruction. Unless you force them to it, my firm do not wish to put the Company into liquidation, feeling that there is little or no likelihood of the property realising the sum they have already advanced, and that shareholders would in that event get nothing. The alternative of reconstruction is, however, only possible if you are prepared to reduce the face value of the present shares to \$10 fully paid up in exchange for the scrip which you now hold. If you are ready to do this, the General Managers are of opinion, from carefully prepared estimates based upon the experience of past working, that under ordinary conditions the advantages of the change will allow of the Mill when in full work yielding a satisfactory return upon the proposed new capital of \$1,250,000, and holding this view are willing to accept for their remuneration a percentage of the profits made, instead of commission upon purchases and sales as allowed to them under the present Articles. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who are still holders of the shares originally allotted to them, propose to take one half of the additional capital required, and offer to the public the other moiety, but in the event of that moiety not being subscribed, then they are prepared to increase their holding up to the total amount of the Company's indebtedness, which, it is estimated, will be approximately \$1,130,000 on 30th June. Apart from the relief from the present debt which would thus be afforded, there are further advantages attaching to the scheme which may not be so apparent to you. For instance, after taking the land owned by the Company measuring 392,000 square feet at its estimated market

value, the capital being limited to 12½ lakhs would allow of machinery, which is of the very best description and practically as good as new, being written down from \$1,101,424.82 to \$556,000 or 50 per cent. of its present book-value and 20 per cent. being written off the book-value of buildings, thus permitting of a saving in fire insurance premium which has hitherto been a heavy item of expenditure, and also doing away with the necessity of making provision for depreciation of machinery and buildings for several years to come. The buildings could not now be erected at their original cost, owing to a heavy increase in the price of both labour and material. Furthermore, as you may possibly be aware, the land belonging to the Company is more than sufficient for our needs, having been acquired with a view to possible extension, and the surplus area measuring over 150,000 sq. feet may be sold when a favourable opportunity occurs, thus reducing the taxation on the property, and providing a proportion of our working capital. Such further sum as may be required for working capital will be advanced by the General Managers at current rate of interest. These remarks, which I think cover the whole ground, will give you some idea of the economies possible under the new scheme. It only occurs to me to add that now the yarns are becoming known they command higher prices on this market than those current for the best Indian spinnings. Before putting the resolutions of which you have had notice to the meeting, I invite your remarks on the situation, and any further information I can give is at your disposal.

There being no remarks and no questions asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the Resolutions be adopted.

The Hon. C. P. CHATEL seconded the proposal and it was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen.—Another extraordinary general meeting will be held in a fortnight, and if those resolutions are then confirmed, work at the mill will shortly afterwards be started. I thank you, gentlemen, for your attention. The meeting is adjourned.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 21st June.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, KT.,
C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST INSPECTOR CRISP—
DEFENDANT DISCHARGED.

The Court assembled at ten o'clock, and counsel at once proceeded to sum up.

In his address to the jury, Mr. Francis, after reviewing the two counts in the indictment against the defendant, said the particular question for the jury to consider was not whether Crisp accepted, or obtained, or received \$40 from Chung Shun Koo, but the object he had in view when he took the money—whether he took it with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant, or whether he took it for a perfectly innocent and lawful object. That was the question (one omitted by the prosecution) for the jury to decide why Crisp took the money, and for what purpose. The statement made by the defendant at the Magistracy after his arrest was that he took the money with the intention of getting Chung Shun Koo arrested and punished for offering a bribe to a public servant. The information which Mr. Tooker presumably must have given to the police and Crown officials immediately after Crisp's arrest, and the evidence which Mr. Tooker had given on the subject at the Police Court, ought to have satisfied the Crown and Crown officials that Crisp's statement was true and that there was no ground for the prosecution. The complainant, Chung Shun Koo, had managed to slip out of it, and the police had adopted the prosecution, as they were bound to do. Of course, a prosecution by the Captain Superintendent of Police could not be allowed to fall through, and every attempt had been made to carry it through to the bitter end. Here was the defendant, a man who had come from England, specially selected by the Crown agent

and brought out here under an engagement as overseer or foreman of works. He had now been nine months in the colony, and in the exercise of his duties was directly under the supervision of Mr. Tooker, who had given him an excellent character both as to conduct and ability. Who was the complainant? He was a man who for some years past had been speculating in houses, buying them at the lowest possible figure and selling them at the highest. Therefore, it was to the complainant's immediate and direct interest to spend as little as possible on these houses during the short periods they remained in his possession. On Crisp's report, the complainant had been put to considerable expense on houses he had bought for the purpose of selling again. Bearing that in mind, was it likely that Chung Shun Koo would feel particularly amiable or well-disposed towards the person on whose direct report and through whose direct agency he had been compelled to spend so much money on houses he had bought merely as a speculation? The complainant had every possible reason for seeking to discredit Crisp, and, if possible, to get rid of him, all the more because he had already found that Crisp was incorruptible. Chung Shun Koo had said that the accountant of the shop in Queen's Road reported to him that Crisp had been there and had intimated, by the use of a certain expression, that he wanted to obtain money from Chung Shun Koo. It was absolutely impossible to suppose that a man of Crisp's character—a married man with a child—a man who had come out here to a good billet, would expose himself to the risk of losing his character and ruining himself practically for the rest of his life, by placing himself in the power of a man like Chung Shun Koo. Mr. Crisp had visited the shop in Queen's Road, but, as Mr. Tooker said, he did it in the course of his duty. He went there to learn whether the complainant was carrying out the work in connection with the house at Hollywood Road. In the shop he found a man who could understand very little English, and in order to let Chung Shun Koo know who had called, he left his card—a card that had been printed on the approval of Mr. Tooker. The address of the shop in Queen's Road was the only address given by Chung Shun Koo to the Public Works Department, and was the address at which all his notices had been served. There was no evidence that Crisp or anyone else in the Public Works Department knew the man was living at 9, Old Bailey Street. Dealing with the incident on the roof at Hollywood Road, Mr. Francis said the simple fact was that each man was trying to catch the other, and, as happened in most cases where an uncultivated European came in contact with an astute Chinaman, the Chinaman had won. As to the sketch drawn by Crisp, that was probably merely an incident in the plan of each man, or might actually have been made by Crisp to explain away some difficulty in the mind of Chung Shun Koo. Referring to the manner in which the complainant had given his evidence, Mr. Francis said he readily understood the English of the Attorney-General, but when it came to the cross-examination the case was wholly different. Chung Shun Koo had apparently every difficulty in understanding what was said to him, although the language employed was of the simplest. The whole explanation, said Mr. Francis, was that Chung Shun Koo was anxious to gain time to frame an answer consistent with what he had said previously. Coming to the interview between Crisp and Chung Shun Koo at the latter's house in Old Bailey Street, Mr. Francis said that the story about Crisp running out to the verandah and shouting, "What's that?" was a pure invention. The detective sent to Chung Shun Koo's house knew nothing of that running out and shouting, although he was in the room all the time. But then, he was not personally concerned in the trapping of Crisp, and had no reasons for telling an untruth. Concluding, Mr. Francis urged the jury to give the matter their most serious consideration, for, if the defendant was dismissed from Government service here, as would be the certain result of a verdict against him, his career here and probably at home would be ruined.

In summing up, the Acting Attorney-General said his learned friend had prefaced his address by making a representation to the jury on the way in which the case had been opened by the Crown. The jury would remember he distinctly stated at the close of his address that the question they had to determine was under what circumstances the defendant took the money—that was to say, whether he took it with a view to influence his conduct as a public servant, or whether he took it properly and straightforwardly, with the intention of proving that Chung Shun Koo had offered him a bribe.

Mr. Pollock then read to the jury the concluding part of his speech in opening the case as reported in the *Daily Press*, which read—“And the jury, concluded Mr. Pollock, would have to consider carefully whether the defendant took the money corruptly as a bribe, or whether he accepted it in order to trap Chung Shun Koo.” That, said the Acting Attorney-General, was proof that his argument as to the way in which he had stated the case was correct.

Mr. Francis—In that case, your Lordship, I must apologise for the language I used.

Mr. Pollock, continuing, said that what the jury had to consider was the evidence that had been adduced before them and the statement made by the defendant in the charge-room at the Central Police Station. “It does not follow,” said the Acting Attorney-General, “that, because other public servants have been found to accept bribes, the defendant should have accepted one. You ought to dismiss altogether the fact that other public servants have been found out in taking bribes, and judge of this case simply and solely by the evidence before you and by the defendant’s statement at the charge-room.” Mr. Francis, went on the Attorney-General, had suggested that the prosecution ought never to have been carried on at all, and that had it not been for the police taking the matter up, the prosecution would have been dropped at once. If Mr. Francis really entertained that idea, he was quite mistaken in doing so. Referring to the evidence of Lo Tzi Lum, the chief interpreter at the Public Works Office, that an attempt was made by Chung Shun Koo, in the Public Works Office some time in the beginning of February, to bribe the defendant, Mr. Pollock said that having regard to the fact that the defendant and Mr. Tooker were engaged in the same room, it seemed curious that the defendant should keep it bottled up in his mind and allow two months to elapse before reporting to Mr. Tooker. On the 15th of April the defendant told Mr. Tooker that Chung Shun Koo had tried to bribe him with cigars, and that he intended to take the next bribe offered him. That was rather a good plan on the part of the defendant, because, if he accepted a bribe from Chung Shun Koo and was afterwards found out, he would be able to say—“I told Mr. Tooker this man had offered me cigars, and that I was going to take the next bribe he offered me.” Only two witnesses had been called for the defence, one Kwok Ting, a blacksmith, and the other Lo Tzi Lum, the interpreter. It had been obvious from the evidence of Kwok Ting that he and Chung Shun Koo were not friends. Kwok Ting had said that Chung Shun Koo asked him if he knew the inspector of buildings, and that, on Kwok Ting replying that he did, Chung Shun Koo said—“If you know the inspector, will you be good enough to go and see him and put in a few good words for me, and ask him not to call on me to pull down the wall? If you succeed, I’ll give him \$30 and you \$5.” Kwok Ting, it was shown in cross-examination, did go up to the Public Works Office, but after Crisp had been arrested. He saw Mr. Tooker, to whom, through Lo Tzi Lum, he said it was unfair to arrest Mr. Crisp. Mr. Tooker had stated in evidence that he had no recollection of such a remark having been interpreted to him. Had it been interpreted, Mr. Tooker had further said, he was not likely to have readily forgotten it. As to Lo Tzi Lum, the jury would remember that he had been recalled by his Lordship, whom he told that he had had no private conversation with Kwok Ting regarding the case. Lo Tzi Lum’s evidence was to the effect that Chung Shun Koo had actually tried to bribe the defendant directly and that he had been dismissed from the defendant’s presence with angry words.

About twenty minutes afterwards, in the passage at the Public Works Department, Chung Shun Koo was said to have stopped Lo Tzi Lum and asked—“Can’t I bribe the inspector of buildings?” Was such an occurrence possible? Would Chung Shun Koo be likely to stop a man whom he did not know and ask such a question? Certainly not. “You will remember,” said Mr. Pollock to the jury, “when Kwok Ting was asked to rise in Court yesterday, Lo Tzi Lum was asked—‘Do you know that man?’ ‘No.’ Kwok Ting was brought nearer, and Lo Tzi Lum again asked—‘Do you know that man?’ ‘No.’ I submit, gentlemen, that was a very clever piece of acting on Lo Tzi Lum’s part, because, when he was asked to look again, he said—‘I do remember that man coming up to the Public Works Department and telling Mr. Tooker, through my interpretation, that he was surprised that Crisp had been arrested, and that it was unfair.’” Was Lo Tzi Lum, asked the Attorney-General, likely to forget a man whom he had admittedly spoken to on the previous day? Was it likely, if Chung Shun Koo had tried through him to bribe the defendant, that Lo Tzi Lum would have kept such important evidence secret for so long? Lo Tzi Lum’s evidence was simply invented in order to help the defendant out of a scrape. Mr. Pollock admitted what his learned friend had suggested, that there was a discrepancy in the evidence for the prosecution as given previously at the Police Court and latterly at the Supreme Court. It was a Chinese characteristic to exaggerate, but it would not be safe on that account for the jury to conclude that everything a witness said was untrue. As to the evidence of the Chinese detective sergeant, Mr. Pollock would ask whether it did not conflict with the statement made by the defendant at the charge-room—that he took the money, but did not know then how much there was. The Chinese sergeant had said he understood part of the conversation, and heard the defendant say—“You must give me \$40.” The notes, too, before being handed to the defendant, were laid on the table, where they could easily be seen and counted. Concluding, Mr. Pollock said—“I don’t propose to take up your time any longer. I am sure you have listened carefully to the evidence, and that you will exercise every care in arriving at your verdict.”

In the course of his summing-up his Lordship said the case had something of the aspect of a comedy about it. Each person had tried to trap the other—a big game of East against West. Each was planning his own cross-purposes, and they could see who had got the best of the duel. It reminded his Lordship of an old and famous ballad by Bret Hart called “A Heathen Chinee,” in which two Westerners combined to cheat a Chinaman who in the end proved to be more than able for both. The defendant thought he had beaten the prosecutor, and went downstairs chuckling at the reflection that he had a strong case against him. He little thought, however, that the prosecutor had laid a trap much more cleverly for him, and had the chief of the detective staff waiting to catch him with the money in his possession. The jury, without leaving the box, by a majority of six to one found the defendant not guilty on both counts of the indictment. Crisp was accordingly discharged.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

TWO MONTHS FOR PERJURY.

An Indian named Bholo Singh sued Hu In Chee, clerk in the Kowloon Office of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, for \$421, being the balance of principal and interest of a promissory note made by defendant, and dated 3rd July, 1896.

Defendant denied to his Lordship that his name was Hu In Chee, the name which appeared on the promissory note. The plaintiff stopped into the box and swore, however, that defendant was Hu In Chee, and that he signed the document and the other touched the pen.

His Lordship (to the Court interpreter)—Do you know the defendant?

The interpreter—Yes, my lord; we were at school together.

Defendant still asserted that he was not Hu In Chee, and that it was not he who signed the promissory note.

His Lordship then directed the interpreter to go into the witness box.

The interpreter, sworn, said he had known the defendant for ten years. His name was Hu In Chee all the time he (the interpreter) had known him. He was quite sure that he had made no mistake.

Mr. Holmes, solicitor, who appeared for the plaintiff, then went into the box. He said he knew the man in the blue coat (the defendant). Defendant had been several times to witness in connection with the promissory note. Defendant had paid interest to witness on two occasions. Witness gave him receipts in the name of Hu In Chee, and he made no objection, nor did he say that that was not his name.

His Lordship awarded judgment for the plaintiff, with costs, and committed the defendant to prison for two months’ hard labour for perjury.

Monday, 24th June.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, KT., C.M.G.
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

COUNTERFEIT COIN CASE.

Fung Lun was charged on four counts—(1) selling counterfeit coins (2) uttering counterfeit coins, (3) having three or more counterfeit coins in his possession, and (4) uttering counterfeit coins.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K. C. (instructed by Mr. K. W. Mounsey), who appeared for the defendant, intimated that his client pleaded guilty to the third count—possession—and that the Attorney-General was willing to accept that plea and not to proceed on the remaining counts of the indictment.

Mr. Francis said the defendant did not make it a business to sell counterfeit money, and that it was only after considerable time and difficulty the prosecution could get together what little money had actually been sold. His Lordship, said Mr. Francis, would have noticed that the money was not being sold as false money, but as refuse or useless money which was apparently to be sent to Canton to be melted down. The defendant, before he handed it over to the purchaser, wanted to chop it up. Under all the circumstances of the case, Mr. Francis desired his Lordship to avail himself of the powers given him under section 35 of the Ordinance and fine the defendant, further binding him over in his own recognisances to keep the peace.

His Lordship—Is your client able to pay a considerable fine?

Mr. Francis—No, my Lord, he is a poor man. It would be a totally different thing if the master of the shop were before you.

His Lordship—The shop people ought to pay his fine.

Mr. Francis—I am afraid there is no legal means of compelling them to pay it. It was with great difficulty that the necessary expenses for the defence were obtained.

The Acting Attorney-General had no objection to the course proposed by Mr. Francis, and the defendant was fined \$500, to be paid forthwith, in default of which he would be imprisoned for nine months with hard labour. He was further bound over in his own recognisances of \$500 to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for a period of six months.

ATTEMPTED LARCENY—CASE WITHDRAWN.

Lam Shek Yeung was charged with attempted larceny at Tai Hom village on 14th May. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. K. W. Mounsey).

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. W. A. Sims, W. Hardwick, J. S. Ezekiel, S. F. da Lloza, A. M. R. Pereira, M. Meyer, and J. Benjamin.

The Acting Attorney-General said the complainant in the case was a Chinaman—a farmer living at the village of Tai Hom, near Kowloon City. On the evening of the 14th May, about nine o’clock, the complainant was in his house when he heard a noise on the roof. He picked

up his rifle, and looking up through a hole that had been knocked in the roof, and through which poles were thrust, saw some four or five men on the top of the house. The complainant fired his rifle, and two of the men, apparently sliding down the poles into the complainant's house, bolted through the front door and escaped. The complainant had gone for the police, and at twenty minutes past nine Sergeant Kent, in charge of a party, arrived. They searched the house, and on the roof the complainant found a chopper, which he handed over to a Chinese constable. The complainant, Mr. Pollock explained, did not profess to be able to identify any of the robbers, but evidence would be brought forward by the prosecution to show that the defendant was connected with the chopper. One of the Crown witnesses was a blacksmith carrying on business in Kowloon, and he would tell the jury that he sold the chopper to the defendant on 1th May—the night of the attempted robbery—at six or seven o'clock, some two or three hours before the affair took place. The defendant had denied that he actually bought the chopper, but he appeared on his own showing to have been in the shop when it was purchased. The jury would also have to consider the fact that when he was arrested—two days after the attempted larceny—the defendant was wearing a pair of trousers which had stain of blood upon them. The stains were undoubtedly those of blood, but the Government Analyst was unable to say whether the blood was recent or whether it was human. One point he had omitted to mention, said the Attorney-General, was that when the complainant fired his rifle one of the robbers fell from the roof in attempting to make his escape, and sustained injuries from which he ultimately died. It was possible that the blood on the defendant's trousers might have been caused by his attempting to rescue the injured man, who, although unable to move, was found some distance from the house.

After hearing the Attorney-General, his Lordship, addressing the jury, said he thought the case was altogether too weak to go before them. There might be grave suspicion against the defendant, but that was not enough, and he would ask them to return a verdict of not guilty.

The jury were unanimous in finding the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

This brought the Sessions to a close.

Tuesday, 25th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, Kt., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

PROBATE OF A WILL—ATTORNEY-GENERAL V. JACQUES.

This was a special case, and was heard before his Lordship on the 10th inst. It was called by consent of parties to decide the liability or not of certain shares belonging to the estate of Joseph Jacques, deceased, not on the Register of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Hongkong, to be charged probate duty in this colony. The Attorney-General was the plaintiff, and Sarah Jacques, executrix of the will of her husband, Joseph Jacques, deceased, was the defendant. The judgment of his Lordship was as follows:—

"In this case the parties filed a memorandum of agreement under Section 88 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the purpose of obtaining the finding of the Court upon a question of law, which is stated in a special case annexed to the memorandum. By the memorandum it is agreed that if the finding of the Court is in the affirmative of the question submitted to it, the defendant is to pay to the Colonial Treasurer certain probate duty in respect of the estate of her testator, while if the finding is in the negative the plaintiff is to withdraw his claim for payment of that probate duty.

"The facts upon which the question arises are set forth in the special case, and may be shortly stated as follows:—

"The testator died in England on the 23rd January, 1900, and probate of his will was granted by the High Court of Justice Probate Division to the defendant on the 2nd May, 1900.

"An exemplification of the probate and sealed with the seal of this Court in its Probate Jurisdiction on the 7th August, 1900, and probate duty was paid on property of the estate in this colony, consisting of shares in various companies of the total value of \$629,367.70.

"Since this payment was made, it has been ascertained that, in addition to these shares, the testator was entitled to the undermentioned parcels of shares, namely:—

(1.) A parcel of 767 shares in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which were on the London Register of the Corporation and the scrip or share certificates which were, at the date of his death, in the possession and under the control of the Corporation in London, subject to a lien or charge in favour of the Corporation amounting to £975.5s. 6d.; and

(2.) A parcel of 705 shares in the same Corporation which were on the Shanghai Register of the Corporation and were, at the date of his death, in the possession and under the control of the Corporation at Shanghai, subject to a lien or charge in favour of the Corporation amounting to Taels 252,412.72 (Shanghai sycee).

"The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was incorporated in Hongkong by Ordinance No. 5 of 1866 and exists and is governed by the provisions of that Ordinance and of the Deed of Settlement mentioned therein and of certain later Ordinances extending and amending the Original Ordinance of Incorporation.

"The Head Office of the Corporation is in Hongkong, and the business of the Corporation is managed and controlled by a Court of Directors in Hongkong. A Register of Shareholders is kept in Hongkong a separate volume being opened and kept for Hongkong shareholders, for English shareholders, for Shanghai shareholders and for Calcutta shareholders respectively.

"Separate registers have for many years past been opened and kept by the Corporation in London, at Shanghai, and at Calcutta, for shareholders in England, in China, and in India respectively. It appears that so far back as the 4th November, 1865, that is some time before the date of the Ordinance of Incorporation and of the Deed of Settlement—the managers and agents of the Corporation at these places were empowered by the Court of Directors to sign scrips for shares at their respective branches or agencies. On the 19th December, 1867, the Court of Directors further authorised the special agent of the Corporation in London to get a duplicate seal of the Corporation made and to affix that seal to shares on, or to be put on, the London Register.

"Shares held in the above-mentioned countries have been habitually transferred on the local Registers and share certificates have been issued in London, at Shanghai, and at Calcutta to the transferees, without any reference to the Court of Directors or to the Chief Manager in Hongkong. The Registers kept in Hongkong for shareholders resident in the said countries are merely transcripts of the local Registers kept in London, at Shanghai, and at Calcutta respectively, all transfers of shares being reported to Hongkong periodically by the local managers.

"In these circumstances the plaintiff as representing the Crown claims from the defendant as executrix of the testator payment of probate duty in Hongkong on the above-mentioned 1,472 shares, on the ground that they are situate within the Probate Jurisdiction of this Court and therefore form part of the estate and effects of the testator upon which probate duty ought to be paid in this Colony. The defendant, on the other hand, resists payment of the probate duty so claimed on the ground that the shares in question are not property locally situate in Hongkong, but are property situate in England and within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court at Shanghai respectively.

"The defendant admits that there is no express authority in the Ordinances constituting and affecting the Corporation or in the Corporation Deed of Settlement for the opening of the Registers in London, at Shanghai, and at Calcutta. The Corporation is not subject to the provisions of the Companies' Ordinances.

"In this state of facts the following question is raised for the decision of the Court:—Whether the said 1,472 shares or any of them are property which is liable to the payment of probate duty in Hongkong, under the provisions of Ordinances No. 16 of 1886 and No. 13 of 1894, or not?

"It is obvious that the answer to this question depends upon the answer to be made to another question, namely: Whether the shares in question were lawfully and properly transferred and borne on the local Registers in London and at Shanghai? The answer to this question is in its turn dependent on the answer to the question whether the Corporation is empowered by the forms of its Ordinances or of its Deed of Settlement to establish local Registers of Shareholders in London and at Shanghai, and to provide for the transfer and holding of shares on those Registers as valid and effectual in themselves without reference to the Register of Shareholders in Hongkong. It is clear that a judicial determination of this question must be a matter of considerable importance to the Corporation, and therefore I was careful to inquire at the hearing as to the position of the Corporation in respect of these proceedings. I was informed that, as attorney for the defendant, the Corporation was fully cognisant of the proceedings.

"It is admitted in the special case that the Ordinances of the Corporation and its Deed of Settlement contain no express authority enabling the Corporation to establish the local Registers. We must therefore examine the Ordinances and Deed of Settlement to see whether any general or implied authority to that effect is conferred by them or either of them. The Ordinances do not contain any provisions for regulating the management of the affairs of the Corporation; all such matters are expressly left to be dealt with by the Deed of Settlement. The keeping of Registers of Shareholders is clearly one of such matter; it remains therefore to consider what are the provisions of the Deed of Settlement relating to this subject.

"By the proviso to Section 4 of the Ordinance of Incorporation—as repealed and re-enacted in somewhat wider terms by Ordinance No. 29 of 1889—power is given to the Corporation, with the consent of the Commissioners, for executing the Office of Lord High Treasurer to establish Branch Banks or Agencies at any place out of the Colony in conformity with the law of such place.

"The principal enactment relating to the Deed of Settlement is Section 10 of the Ordinance of Incorporation. By this Section it is enacted that a Deed of Settlement was to be executed within a certain time by certain subscribers, and that the Deed was to contain provisions for effectuating the following object amongst others, namely, 'for the management of the affairs of the Company.' The Deed was executed on the 20th July, 1867, nearly a year after the coming into force of the Ordinance of Incorporation, and was approved by the Governor.

"The earlier Articles of the Deed make provision with respect to the Constitution of the Company, the seal and its uses, the business of the Company, the place of business, the capital of the Company, and shares in the Company. Articles 30 to 33 make provision with regard to Certificates of Shares. By Article 30 it is provided that 'on demand made by the registered holder of any share, the Court shall deliver to him a certificate of the ownership of the share, and such certificate shall have the seal affixed thereto, and shall specify the share to which he is entitled and . . . may be in the form prescribed in the first schedule to the Deed.' According to this form a share certificate is issued under the seal of the Corporation.

"By Article 40 it is declared that, 'subject to the provisions of the Deed, any shareholder may sell and transfer all or any of his shares to any other persons approved by the Court.'

"A Register of Transfers, 'to be kept under the superintendence of the Court,' is provided for by Articles 54 to 56.

"Article 57 is in the following terms:—'A book to be called "The Register of Shareholders" shall be provided and kept under the superintendence of the Court, and therein shall, from time to time, be fairly and distinctly entered the names and addresses of the several shareholders, and the number of

shares to which they respectively are entitled, distinguishing each share by its number.

"Article 59 makes provision for the keeping, under the Superintendence of the Court, of a 'Shareholders' Address Book.' It is expressly provided that every shareholder is to furnish an address for service either in Hongkong or at one of the open ports in China or Japan.

"The provisions of which mention has now been made have reference, no doubt, to matters of administration within the direct cognisance and under the direct control and superintendence of the Court of Directors at the Head Office in Hongkong. They contain no reference to the conduct of business at branch banks or of agencies. To take the case of the Register Shareholders, Article 57 clearly refers to the Register to be established and kept at the Head Office in connection with the general management of the business of the Corporation.

"But then, after a number of Articles, to which it is not necessary to make special reference, we come to a series of Articles arranged under the sub heading 'Powers and Functions of the Court.' And the answer to the question under consideration turns upon the effect which these Articles have upon the above-mentioned Articles of general signification. Of these Articles whose effect I am now about to consider, Article 141 confers upon the Court a very large power of delegating its powers to committees composed of one or more directors. But it does not appear that in the present case there is any question of delegation of authority to committees of directors, so that the Article is not germane to the present purpose. Articles 144 to 146, however, come nearer to the matter in hand. Article 144 provides for the appointment of local committees at places where the business of the Corporation is authorised to be carried on; while Article 145 provides for the appointment of officers or servants of the Corporation as inspectors, managers, or agents at such places. Article 146 reads as follows:—'The Court by letters of attorney or other deed under the seal, or by writing not under seal, may delegate to such director, local committee, inspectors, managers, agents, and other officers respectively any of the powers of the Court, and may invest them respectively with any other powers which the Court, in their discretion, think expedient for the due conduct, management, and regulation of any of the business or affairs of the Company.' I may also refer to Article 158, which vests very wide discretionary and supplementary powers in the Court of Directors. It must, I think, be taken that the delegation to the representative of the Corporation in London and at Shanghai of the power of opening and keeping Registers of Shareholders at those places was made under some one or more of these Articles. Then, was that delegation rightly made? Does it come within the scope of the Articles? I am of opinion that the powers of delegation conferred by these Articles are sufficiently large and general to render it necessary for me to answer these questions in the affirmative. I therefore hold that the Court of Directors were within their rights and powers in authorising the representatives of the Corporation in London and at Shanghai to open and keep such Registers; that the Registers are good and valid Registers; that the shares now in question which are borne on the Registers are not *bona notabilia* within the Probate Jurisdiction of this Court; and that the answer to the question submitted by the special case must be in favour of the defendant.

"A few more observations may be added. The course of practice of the Corporation which it is now sought to invalidate as being *ultra vires* has existed for many years, in part at last before the incorporation of the Corporation. It may therefore fairly be assumed that the Ordinance and the Deed of Settlement were framed with a view to such a state of things, and that the legislature in making the Ordinance and the Governor in approving the Deed of Settlement, were aware of its existence and impliedly gave their sanction to its continuance. But, however this may be, it is at any rate a sound and well settled rule of construction that where the Court finds itself in presence of a long established and convenient course of practice or conduct which

has grown up under the sanction or alleged sanction of a written instrument, it ought, if possible, to adopt such a construction of the instrument *ut res magis valeat quam pereat*.

"From the evidence before me it appears that there is a duplicate Seal of the Corporation kept in London, but there is no Seal at Shanghai. There may therefore be difficulty about the issue of share certificates at Shanghai, but in any event, if there is such a difficulty, it is one between the Corporation and its shareholders and does not affect the principle of decision in this case.

"As to the effect of the finding that the local Registers are good and valid Registers, reference may usefully be made to the English Acts on the subject of colonial registers. At p. 240 of *Barron's Death Duties* the effect of these Acts in relation to probate duty is thus stated:—'The 46 and 47 Vict. c. 30, which authorises companies registered under the Companies Act, 1862, to keep colonial Registers of members provides by Section 7 that upon the death of any member so registered, the interest shall be deemed part of his estate within the United Kingdom for probate or inventory purposes in like manner as if he were registered at the company's registered office. By Section 18 of the 52 and 53 Vict. c. 42, however, this provision is confined to persons domiciled in the United Kingdom. It would appear, therefore, that shares in such a company, registered in the colonial register by a person domiciled in a British possession, will be locally situate where the register is; but that where the person was domiciled in the United Kingdom, such shares will be locally situate in the United Kingdom.'

"The Court is not asked to decide the question of the liability to probate duty in this colony of dividends on the shares in question, but it was admitted by Mr. Francis that dividends stand in a somewhat different position from the shares, and I have no doubt the parties can come to an agreement about them.

"In accordance with the terms of the agreement between the parties there will be no order as to costs."

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

HUMPHREYS ESTATE COMPANY V. CHAN
YEW TING.

His Honour on the 20th inst. reserved judgment in this case, in which the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited, plaintiffs, claimed \$1,000, money paid by them by mistake into Court, and, in consequence of their mistake, handed over to the defendant, Chan Yew Ting, interpreter to Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master.

His Lordship's decision was to the effect that some time ago—the dates were not material in regard to the judgment he was about to deliver—the defendant sued one Pang Yan for money lent, and recovered judgment. The defendant then issued a prohibitory order to restrain the plaintiffs from parting with money alleged to be due by them to Pang Yan, and the plaintiffs, with a full knowledge of the facts—namely, that a claim had been made on that money by one Soo Sum, a co-contractor with Pang Yan—paid the money into Court, relying on section 76 of the Code. The Court, not having had any notice of the claim by Soo Sum, ordered payment of the money to the defendant. Soo Sum then sued the plaintiffs, and recovered judgment. The plaintiffs in turn brought the present action against the defendant, claiming that the money had been paid over by mistake. Mistake was divided into two classes—mistake of fact and mistake of law. No mistake as regards fact had been made in this case, and his Lordship, after going carefully into the evidence, could not find that there had been any mistake in law such as would entitle the plaintiffs to recover. He therefore gave judgment for the defendant, with costs.

The *Asahi* states that there are 200 foreigners in Yokohama who, under one pretext or another, will not pay their taxes. The authorities will now proceed with the matter more vigorously, in place of leniency and soft considerations, as the paper puts it, and will uphold the dignity of the law.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Coast Port, June, 19 1.

SIR,—For the sake of humanity I hope you will kindly allow me a small space in your columns to bring to the information of those who have to deal directly with plague cases in particular and of the public in general a treatment of this fell disease which I have found to be most efficacious. I beg to state most distinctly that I have no pretention to the slightest idea of medicine, but whilst I was in Hongkong I heard from a man of experience of the treatment which I am about to make generally known through the medium of your paper. I had then good grounds to firmly believe in the good results attained; I could not, however, attempt to bring the facts before the public because of the anger which I would provoke amongst the local practitioners, and because of the consequent persecution which would be started by them, for they will not allow any treatment of diseases outside the pale of their sapience, and consequently the man who, not belonging to their clique, pretends to try his hand at doctoring, must necessarily be an ignorant and a fool who should at once be run down.

Now that I am in a coast port beyond the reach of the Hongkong professionals, I have tried the treatment without fear of persecution or prosecution for doing so; for I have tried it on Chinese, and have had the satisfaction of saving many lives.

Now, to come to my purpose. As soon as any symptom of plague is apparent, give the patient a hot bath, as hot as he can stand; then give him a tablespoonful of pure real olive oil every three hours, in the meantime giving him a friction of heated olive oil on the bubo every hour or so.

This simple treatment has proved efficacious in many cases, and a fair trial will not make twenty-five deaths in twenty-four cases surely.—Yours, etc.,

X. X. X.

23rd June.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—You must little have thought, when publishing on the 21st inst. my first letter on this subject, what a happy response your journalistic hospitality in the cause of the public weal was going to meet with on the arrival of the English Mail on the same day, which brought Bombay papers, including the *Bombay Gazette* of the 3rd inst., which contains a very interesting and instructive letter from the pen of Professor Gajjar, M.A., B.Sc., the Hindu scientist referred to in my first letter in your paper. It is earnestly to be hoped that this important letter by a scientist who is devoting his time, attention, energy, and money to the investigation and discovery of a panacea against this scourge of scourges, the plague, will not be allowed to go unheeded by the local authorities and the medical profession of the colony, but that full advantage will be taken of the figures and deductions of the author of the letter in question. Dr. Bahadurji, I may state, is the Parsee London M.D., B.Sc., referred to in my first letter.—Yours, etc.,

A BOMBAYITE.

(Enclosure.)

"IODINE TERCHLORIDE AND PLAGUE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."
Bombay, 31st May.

"SIR,—I subjoin the statement for the month of April last of the Bubonic and other Fever cases treated with *Liq. Iodine Terchloride* at the undermentioned free stations opened by Sheth Naranji Dwarkadas."

[The statement shows that in the month of April, 81 cases with buboes and 483 cases without buboes (in all, 574 cases) were treated with the above mentioned medicine, out of which 60 patients with buboes and 490 patients without buboes (in all, 550 patients) recovered, and 21 patients with buboes and 3 without buboes died, which gives a proportion of 74.07

per cent. of recoveries of cases with buboes and 99.3 per cent of recoveries of cases without buboes.]

"During the last 3 months—the epidemic season—in all 1414 patients were treated at the free Stations with *Liq. Iodine Terchloride*, out of whom 1,267 recovered and 147 died. True it is that in the great majority of these cases it is impossible to determine with precision the exact number of "genuine" plague cases. But it must at the same time be remembered that almost all the cases treated had come from localities where plague was most rife, or had been in contact with plague patients. This fact alone will force the public to the irresistible conclusion that the number of plague cases placed under the heading "with buboes," with a view to dissipate all doubts, falls very much short of the actual one. Be that as it may, there will be no denying the fact that the results, even as they are shown above, are eminently satisfactory. The germicide in question has now unquestionably established its value by giving a much reduced death rate in plague epidemics.

"Another factor in connection with the above statement, which goes a great way to enhance the value of this germicide, is that almost all the patients that received the treatment were from among the low caste people, who are notorious for their susceptibility to plague and such kindred diseases on account of their scandalously filthy habits and living. The regular administration of the medicine and proper nursing, moreover, could not be expected from these ignorant and illiterate persons. In spite of all these adverse circumstances, the action of the germicide in question was marked and quick in lowering the temperature and crippling the further development of the disease, and thus hastening the recovery of those who availed themselves of it in time. I would, on the strength of this successful trial, fairly extensive, commend this Iodine Terchloride to the notice of those who are interested in the vexed problem of saving the unfortunate and helpless victims to this fell disease, and entreat them one and all to try this germicide in good earnest in all diseases of septic origin. There was, no doubt, the disposition to cry down this potent curative to the level of much advertised so called patent medicines; but now happily the sign of correct understanding is distinctly observable, and I have no doubt that, ere long, all doubts and scruples regarding its use would vanish. I have reasons to hope that medical men would not look upon this Iodine Terchloride—which is nothing but a well known and stable chemical compound—as in any way a strange drug of unknown and unreliable composition, but would hail it as the true non-poisonous germicide, of which they were in sore need; and, shaking of all their prejudices, would accept this germicide with a satisfying sense of relief, giving up the harmful use either of depressant, diaphoretic and antipyretic remedies, or stimulants such as strychnine, atropine, &c., in poisonous doses.

"Before bringing these few remarks to a close, I embrace this opportunity of publicly expressing my gratitude to my lamented friend Dr. Bahadurji, whose encouragement at the initial stage of the trial was quite an incitement to me for further progress. Another gentleman who must rightfully claim my gratitude and that of the public at large is that unostentatious Shet Naranji Dwarkadas, whose keen sympathy for suffering humanity and enlightened interest in the solutions of the great scientific problems of the day led him to voluntarily place at my disposal sufficient funds to carry on my investigations in this direction and to give the benefit of the germicidal treatment to the poor. It will not be too much to say that the present accomplishment would, but for his help, have been almost an impossibility. Allow me therefore to publicly acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of myself and that of the public, the invaluable help rendered by him. I must also thank those medical men and others who kindly assisted me with more or less energy and interest in the trial.—Yours, &c.

"J. K. GAJJAR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

24th June.

SIR,—The Sanitary Board is often assailed by Chinese who have suffered inconvenience

from what seems to them the erratic manner in which it carries out disinfecting operations; however, I have always felt that we should defend the Board in its arduous task of fighting the plague. But on Saturday last the evidence of my senses turned this feeling into one of disgust and amazement. On the afternoon of that day, being at Yaumati, I saw a sight in the harbour there which impels me to write to you on a subject I would rather avoid.

A truly fearful smell directed my attention to a steam-launch manoeuvring within a few yards of me, towing a "dugout" full of plague corpses! Being towed where?—to Hongkong for burial!! May I ask you, Sir, or your readers, if the Sanitary Board could invent a more effectual means of propagating bubonic plague in this colony?

As this procedure is quite a puzzle to me, I hope someone will be able to explain it and so restore the confidence of a hitherto loyal supporter of our Sanitary Board. That these authorities who spare neither trouble nor expense (to Chinese families) in precautionary measures should bring cargoes of festering plague corpses from the mainland through our crowded harbour, to dump them on this overcrowded island, is a precautionary measure of a wonderful kind. Is there no authority to stop this? I suppose the only immediate appeal is to the Press.

In the New Territory can there not be found space for a cemetery large enough for its own requirements? The cemeteries of Hongkong ought to have been closed years ago—and unless the design is to make our beautiful island resemble a pesthouse or a charnelhouse, it is time some part of our extensive possessions on the mainland should be set apart as a cemetery for Hongkong, instead of making Hongkong—as at present—a receptacle for plague corpses from the mainland.—Enclosing my card and thanking you to insert this letter in an early issue, I am for the present,

PUZZLED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

26th June.

SIR,—Will you permit me to earnestly entreat—to beg—to pray intending occupants not to resume residence in Beaconsfield Arcade for a further period of at least three months. This entreaty on my part is but a public duty.—Yours, etc.,

BUBO.

A DANGEROUS ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

20th June.

SIR,—Will you be so good as to afford me space to warn pedestrians who frequent Bowen Road and more especially people who send their children there of a danger of which some may perhaps be unaware?

I and another were strolling along Bowen Road on the evening of the 19th inst. about 6 o'clock and just as we had turned the corner below the site of the new Military Hospital we heard rapid hoof-beats behind us. We had just time to jump aside before a horseman passed us at a smart canter, as nearly as possible riding over a couple of dogs I had with me. The horseman did not pull up in the slightest degree on passing us. Had there been children or chairs, or in fact anything but a couple of fairly able-bodied men at the spot where we were, nothing but a miracle could have prevented a smash.

This is the first horseman I have seen on Bowen Road but I have since been informed that anyone has a right to ride there. If it is true, I am sure that most people will agree with me that it is disgraceful that the one footpath below the Peak which is suitable for European children to frequent should be so scandalously abused.

I am not aware what the rights of way on Bowen Road are, but it seems to me that one of two things should be done: either horse-riding should be prohibited or pedestrians should be warned by a notice-board that they use it at their own risk. If the latter course were adopted, I fancy there would be sufficient outcry, even in this apathetic community, to cause an alteration in the bye-law.—Yours, etc.,

PATERFAMILIAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Bowen Road Filter Beds,

26th June.

SIR,—My attention has just been called to a letter under the above heading and signed "Paterfamilias" which appeared in your issue of the 22nd inst. As no doubt the writer is the person referred to, and the one and only inference is that I was riding furiously, I must ask your kind consideration to allow me to reply.

Firstly, I was *not* riding furiously. I think I am sufficiently well known in the colony and know the colony well enough not to ride furiously along such a place as Bowen Road. Secondly, as I explained to "Paterfamilias" at the time, I was capable of stopping my horse in less than 10 paces even had I been riding furiously. Thirdly, "Paterfamilias" invaded my home and used heated and abusive language, which was certainly uncalled for.

With regard to his dogs: perhaps he was looking for a "basket of whelps" left out to the tender mercies of the world on McDonnell Road and found in a starved condition by one of my coolies.

I have nothing to conceal in the matter and therefore use no *nom de plume*.—I am, Sir, Yours, etc.,

J. ROSS,

Overseer, Water Works.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

27th June.

SIR,—I was very pleased to see your correspondent's (Mr. Ross's) highly humorous answer to my letter on the above subject, as I am sure its fervid periods are much more likely than my own laboured style to draw public attention to the misuse of Bowen Road which I was endeavouring to bring into notice. I regret that Mr. Ross should have regarded my letter as a personal attack upon himself, and I can assure him that it was not intended as such. I thought that I had sufficiently explained to Mr. Ross during the "invasion" he refers to that it was the authorities who allowed such things to be done, and not himself, that I considered blameworthy.

The information relative to the capture of a "basket of whelps" by coolies on MacDonnell Road is interesting as zoological news, though I do not quite understand its bearing on the point in question. However, I am happy to inform Mr. Ross that his suggestion that I was searching for such objects is incorrect. I was not aware at the time that the neighbourhood of Bowen and MacDonnell Roads was a locality in which success in this pursuit could be expected.

To return to the point.—Will someone be good enough to inform me, where the regulations about traffic on Bowen Road, as recently revised, can be perused?—Yours, etc.,

PATERFAMILIAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

28th June.

SIR,—In view of the letter of Mr. Ross on the subject of Bowen Road appearing in your issue of 27th inst., will you kindly allow me to endorse the statements of "Paterfamilias"? I was in company with "Paterfamilias" when the horseman, presumably Mr. Ross, rode past us on Bowen Road and I can only say that it was a mere chance I was not knocked down, as I had to run over to the side of the road and crouch by the bank in order to keep clear of the horse. Whether this points to furious riding and whether there is any danger in the practice I leave the public to judge.—Yours, etc.,

WITNESS.

FUMIGATION AND DISINFECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

21st June.

SIR,—I am sorry your journal is not an illustrated paper, as I would like to extend you the privilege of publishing some of the little life-sketches of June life in this Malta and Gibraltar of the East. I have been approached by an enterprising American paper for the copyright, but as money is no object, I lean rather to the advice of friends who think these would be a graceful offering to the Secretary for the Colonies if neatly bound into an Album. Another lover of our colony and its faultless administration and

unimpeachable officials offers the suggestion that this should be interleaved with pen-and-ink sketches of the Sanitary Board and their paraphernalia.

On returning home last evening in company with a friend we forced our way through crowds of excited Chinese, and as we speak the lingo as fluently as a Court interpreter, we learned that circulars had been sent to the Chinese in Sanitary District No. 5 that their houses were to be fumigated and cleansed at an early hour on Friday morning. No sooner had the news become general than the occupants of houses in Peel, Staunton, and Elgin Streets began to busy themselves in transferring their penates temporarily to localities not under the Board. Having nothing to do we spent a good deal of time in hasty sketches and in moralising on the apathy and placid indifference of our splendid lot of wooden police in allowing such removals without a protest. With any knowledge of Chinese character, no one but a Government official would dream of advertising their intention to fumigate and cleanse, but would have adapted the more rational measure of a surprise with guards stationed at the street corners. As there was no theatre on, we came down from our perch on the high level in search of diversion, and had we not known the cause we should certainly have surmised that the whole Chinese community were securing at least standing room on one of the river steamers, and accommodation for bedding, hats, and bundles. We learn from good authority that this exodus continued pretty well all night, and was resumed at a very early hour this morning. On going to business this morning we diverted our usual route and visited the scene of the night previous. There was not much to be observed then except an occasional bundle under the gas-lamp that was burning on the corner of Peel and Staunton Street. The friend who pointed this out assured us that a resident in Elgin Street had declared that the gas had not been completely shut off for several days. Of course a policeman could not see this, and perhaps it was not his pidgeon.

EXEUNT OMNES.

BARKER ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
25th June.

SIR,—Who has charge of the not important duty of naming our roads and streets? This official, whoever he be, humble or exalted, would earn the lasting and genuine gratitude of many an erring exasperated pedestrian, if he would cause a name-plate to be put up at each end of Barker Road. Other turnings, on and off the various roads at the Peak, have conspicuous sign-plates erected at suitable points. Barker Road, alone in this respect, seems to be left out in the official cold, neglected and uncared for. Visitors, temporarily staying at either of the Peak caravansaries, go out for a walk in the refreshing coolness of the late afternoon, pass the "Jelly Mould" and descend towards Magazine Gap, intending to turn in on Barker Road, to ascend to Victoria Gap by tram from Plantation Road Station. No friendly finger-post guides or directs them, and they unsuspectingly turn through Magazine Gap, or even wander on as far as Wanchai Gap, before it dawns on them that they have gone astray.

The number of people who, coming up to tiffin or dinner, have got off at Plantation Road Station, and climbed up to Red Hill, instead of turning on to the lower level of Barker Road, when their ultimate destination has been some part of Magazine Gap, is by no means inconsiderable. It is not necessary to dilate on the annoyance inflicted on waiting hostess and hungry guests by such unwitting belatedness.

All this worry and inconvenience would be completely obviated if an inexpensive name-plate stood at each end of this much-used thoroughfare and promenade.

Will it be eventually incumbent on the residents of Magazine Gap and the immediate neighbourhood to take the matter in hand, unofficially, send round a subscription-sheet, and put up name-plates, on their own account? It looks suspiciously like it. The expense would be trifling.—Yours, etc.,

HEIGHTS.

ROAD-MAKING IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—May I take the liberty to use your valuable columns to draw the attention of the powers that be to the disgracefully slow way they have in this colony of repairing roads?

Queen's Road East has been under repair for some time, and in the last ten days not more than 50 yards were finished, and that was very poorly done. Laid this road-repairing not interfere with the traffic and the comfort of the colony's taxpayers, it would matter little, but the mode of work in vogue here seriously interferes with the traffic. Anyone wishing to go East beyond Arsenal Street has to make a detour along the Praya, as it is impossible for either horse or man, without cruelty to either, to pull a vehicle over the 300 yards of rocks and gravel put down by the coolies, but not crushed into the ground and levelled by the steam-roller. Apparently the coolies put down more stones than the steam-roller is able to crush down during the day, and hence the portion of road impassable becomes longer daily.

Why should this be so? Either the officials in charge of the work are incompetent, or criminally neglectful of the public's comfort and money. In either case they ought to be dismissed, and the right men put in their place. Roads repaired at the rate of speed that Queen's Road East is being repaired at, and even then poorly done, must certainly cost an enormous amount of money, far more than any taxpayer in all honesty can be asked to pay.

If the Government does not possess men competent to repair the roads well and quickly, with the least possible expenditure of time and money, let them send some of their amateur road builders to Shanghai, the "Model Settlement" and learn there how it is done.

Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours, etc.,

A FRIEND OF THE TAXPAYER.

A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Permit me to use your columns to draw the authorities' attention to a great nuisance and a danger to public peace. I refer to the great number of Japanese loafers who seem to have made Hongkong the field for their rowdy and indecent behaviour.

Within the past week I have noticed two cases in the Police Court reports, one for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, the second of assault on a little girl, only two-and-a-half years of age, and on two annals.

I myself have noticed night after night a score of these loafers perambulating Wellington Street and adjacent roads, knocking against peaceably disposed Chinese, insulting their women, and even walking up and staring insolently into the faces of European lady pedestrians.

These men are ostensibly employed (so they claim) by various Japanese firms, while in fact they are nothing but Ship Street runners, the scum of Japan, living on the earnings of their unfortunate countrywomen residing in that locality, and between times making themselves as obnoxious as they possibly can to the respectable classes of the colony.

This thing ought to be stopped, for the Government has the power, and ought to exercise it, of deporting such undesirable sojourners from the colony. Instead of fining these vagrants when arrested on some misdemeanour, the magistrates ought to be instructed to deport them, since the Japanese Consul seems unaware of their existence. In Shanghai the Japanese Consul will not even allow his countrywomen of light character to settle there. Here we have not only them, but their agents. I think this matter ought to be looked into by the authorities.—Yours, etc.,

REX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

25th June

SIR,—It will be very kind if you allow me to inform your correspondent "Rex," through your valuable columns, that I am not invested with the power of expelling my countrymen from this colony, while my colleague has such

power in Shanghai, or any other Chinese port, where he has the extraterritorial jurisdiction.—Yours, etc.,

M. KATO,

Consul for Japan.

SHOOTING MATCHES.

MATCH AT NEW RANGE.

"D" CO., H. K. V. C. v. SERGTS. 2ND. R. W. F.

Teams representing the above met on the New Volunteer Range at Tai Hang on Thursday afternoon. Strong squalls and a very uncertain light tended to make the day anything but a good one for accurate shooting. Each team was composed of eight men; the distances being 200 yds. 500 yds. and 600 yds.: seven shots and two sighters at each Range, and the best six scores to count. The result was a win for the volunteers by 23 points. The following are the best six on either sides:—

	"D" CO.			Total.
	200	500	600	
Private Horley	32	28	28	88
" Watson	32	30	22	84
" Mackenzie	30	23	31	84
" Andrew	28	26	29	83
" Clark	30	29	24	83
" Bowley	27	18	10	55
	179	154	144	477
				Grand Total.

	SERGTS. R. W. F.			Total.
	200	500	600	
Sergt. Dr. Mackie	33	28	21	82
Sergt. Doo'an	30	25	25	80
Sergt. Major Hickman	34	24	22	80
Band Sergt. Adams	29	26	21	76
Sergt. More	29	31	14	74
Arm. Sergt. Williams	25	24	13	62
	180	158	116	454
				Grand Total.

VOLUNTEERS v. NON-VOLUNTEERS.

A rifle match came off at Tai Hang Range, Causeway Bay, on Saturday afternoon, between teams representing Volunteer and non-Volunteer members of the Hongkong Rifle Association. The conditions to the match were similar to those of the Interport match—ten men seven aside, seven shots at each range (200, 500, and 600 yards), with two sighting shots. The result was a win for the non-Volunteers by 50 points. Appended are the scores:—

	NON-VOLUNTEERS.			
	200.	500.	600.	Tl.
Ar.-Ser. Blair	33	33	30	96
Ser.-Ins. Wake, R.N.	32	32	31	95
Ins. D. McLennan	32	28	31	93
Mr. W. G. Stackwood	32	30	28	90
Q.-M.-Ser. Wallace, R.E.	28	31	31	89
Q.-M.-Ser. West, R.E.	31	30	27	87
Sergt. Bowery, R.E.	29	32	26	87
Mr. J. Cramer, R.N.	25	31	29	85
Sergt. Mackie, R.W.F.	33	30	22	85
Capt. Carlyle	29	29	25	83
	303	306	281	890
	VOLUNTEERS.			
	200.	500.	600.	Tl.
Sergt. Marshall, "B" Co.	31	33	28	92
Gun. Baldwin, F.B.	33	29	29	91
Ser. Maj. Lammert, "A" Co.	29	29	31	89
Ser. Stewart, F.B.	31	31	27	89
Priv. B. Clarke, "D" Co.	32	31	26	89
Priv. C. Mackenzie, "D" Co.	28	34	25	87
Priv. Watson, "D" Co.	29	29	24	86
Lieut. Mossop, F.B.	29	31	25	85
Priv. Horley, "D" Co.	27	27	16	70
Gun. Lapsley, F.B.	24	21	17	62
	293	295	252	840

L'Echo de Chine, discussing the proposed remedies for missionary troubles in China, repudiates the idea that France can ever give up her role of protectress of Roman Catholic missions. As for the suggested "mixed courts" to settle disputes, our contemporary says: "We hope never to see a (Roman) Catholic missionary sitting in any mixed court whatever."

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The June Shoot of "C" Machine Gun Company for the "Gubbay" and "Keswick" Cups was held at the New Volunteer Range on the 23rd instant and resulted in a win for Bomb. Shoolbred on the "Gubbay" Cup, with Sergeant Sherwin highest for the "Keswick" aggregate. The wind was very bad at 500 yards and caused some of the cracks to break down. The "Gubbay" Cup is fired for prove at 200 yards.

Detail of best scores:—

	200 yards lying.	300 yards kneeling.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Handicap.	Gubbay cup total.	Keswick cup total.
Sergeant Sherwin	23	23	30	25	9	87	87*
Bomb. Shoolbred	32	30	33	22		87	85*
Gunner H. Gidley	26	21	29	24	8	87	82
Gunner Mc Orquodale. 17	20	21	18	18	18	74	77
Sergeant Smillie	30	19	34	18	5	82	76
Sergeant Bevan	26	21	19	27	3	75	70

* Winners of spoons.

Sergeant Smillie gets 5 points for "Keswick" Cup only.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JUNE, 1901.

	1900.	1901.
	below overflow.	below overflow.
Tytam	49 ft. 6 in.	28 ft. 6 in.
Pokfulam	6 ft. 8 in.	4 ft. 8 in.
Wongnaicheong	14 ft. 5 in.	22 ft. 1 in.

STORAGE GALLONS.

	1900.	1901.
Tytam	89,450,000	186,640,000
Pokfulam	51,440,000	55,860,000
Wongnaicheong	14,280,000	8,473,000

Total

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

	1900.	1901.
Consumption	98,403,000	106,178,000 gallons
Estimated population	206,000	212,000
Consumption per head per day	15.4	16.1 gallons

Intermittent supply 1st to 13th.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

	1900.	1901.
Consumption	8,086,148	11,027,000 gallons
Estimated population	28,100	29,300
Consumption per head per day	9.3	12.1 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

We have already referred to a portion of Mr. A. H. Lay's report on the foreign trade of Japan in 1900. We now quote what he says with regard to the division of the trade among the various nations dealing with Japan:—

Distribution of Trade was in the following proportions:—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
United Kingdom	£7,313,068	£1,149,764	£8,462,832
Hongkong	1,088,193	3,999,365	5,087,558
British India	2,400,627	833,556	3,289,193
Australia ...	250,710	258,325	509,035
Canada	32,326	301,213	333,539
Total	11,084,924	6,597,233	17,682,157

China ...	3,058,492	3,253,556	6,312,048
France ...	826,448	1,954,938	2,781,386
Germany ...	2,980,802	362,963	3,343,771
United States of America	6,496,872	5,366,153	11,773,025

British Trade.—The value of the import trade which fell to the share of the United Kingdom was larger in 1900 than in 1899. Figures show an increase in it of 59 per cent. Cotton yarns, shirtings and cotton prints, cotton satins and

cotton velvets, Italian cloths, woollen cloths, machinery and engines, locomotive engines and railway carriages, iron, bar and rod, rails, iron and steel (other), and paper are the chief imports in which we are interested.

The Japanese railway companies with few exceptions have discarded American locomotives in favour of those of British manufacture, merely using up but not replenishing their stock of the former, as they have experienced so much trouble from their boilers. It is only by one or two of the smaller railway companies and the Hokkaido Railway that orders for locomotives are still placed in the United States, and for two reasons, cheapness and despatch. While it is probable that those required for future use will be constructed in Japan, the United Kingdom will benefit by supplying the fittings, such as wheels, sole bars, buffers, and springs, which are not made here. The Formosan Railway last year ordered six locomotives from the United Kingdom to be delivered at Kelung, and steel and other materials for bridge-making. To save duty the bridges are made at Osaka, and thence sent on to the island.

Germany sent to Japan a large quantity of rails in 1900, and her imports of iron, bar and rod, and other iron and steel, showed a considerable development. More than twice as much paper came from Germany as during the preceding twelve months, and a striking growth is to be noted in what is perhaps the most important branch of trade in which that country is interested in Japan—namely, the importation of sugar.

That the import trade from France seems to be flourishing is accounted for by the very large and increased quantity of *mousseline de laine* supplied to Japan.

The United States continue to encroach on spheres of trade which were formerly considered under the exclusive control of the United Kingdom or other nations. American competition is now a permanent feature of the import trade of Japan and is worthy of the careful attention of British manufacturers. The geographical situation of the United States with regard to Japan and the eagerness with which American manufacturers are seeking a market in this country will make her a competitor more and more formidable as time goes on. In 1900 Americans again secured a number of valuable contracts for the delivery of goods in 1901, including one for rails which was estimated at £72,000. Among the reasons for the very large figures to which the import trade from the United States into Japan rose in 1900 was the fact that the extensive orders, the execution of which was undertaken there in the preceding year, included 20,000 tons of rails, which at the high price then prevailing would account for, say, £160,000. A large quantity of electrical plant for tram-lines and electric lighting and bridge work and wire, as well as flour, are also included in the returns. Telephone cable was at one time a United States monopoly, but now German makers are fulfilling large orders for it. British manufacturers, owing to the high prices asked for, have so far been unsuccessful in obtaining any contracts for this material.

Trade with China.—During the past few years there has been a remarkable growth in the trade between Japan and China occasioned for the most part by the opening up of markets for Japanese manufactures in the neighbouring Empire. While the exports thither in 1895 amounted in value to £989,636, in 1899 they had risen to £4,109,573. Till May, 1900, the trade preserved its customary expansion. Cotton yarns, cotton tissues, matches, European umbrellas—in particular the first-named—are the manufactures of Japan which most readily find purchasers in China. Hence the crisis in China, which almost put a stop for a time to the commercial intercourse of the two countries, was a blow felt in an especial manner by those industries. Imports from China, too, naturally diminished in some cases, though the sum of them was greater than in 1899. The labour market in Japan was also affected by the withdrawal of numbers of coolies for service, not only with the Japanese troops but also with the forces of more than one foreign nation.

Of British shipping Mr. Lay says that it shows an increase of 133 vessels, 499,559 tons, as compared with 1899. The Peninsular and

Oriental Steam Navigation Company have sold their two steamers which used to run between Hongkong and Yokohama carrying passengers and cargo, and, at times, mails. The *Rosetta* and *Rohilla* are now in Japanese hands. It would appear as if the company had found themselves unable to compete with the heavily subsidised German, French, and Japanese mail lines, and had, in the meantime at least, abandoned a struggle which they had for some time carried on at a disadvantage and with little success. Passengers wishing to travel home now by a British mail line must proceed first to Shanghai or Hongkong, either by the "intermediate" vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental, or by vessels belonging to some other line. It is regrettable that the British Mercantile Marine is not better represented in these waters. An inquiry addressed to a passenger intending to proceed to Europe *via* India as to the line he will travel by elicits the almost invariable response "by German mail." The Norddeutscher Lloyd continues to own the most commodious and best appointed vessels on this route.

PEKING: EXTENSION OF THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS.

A joint Proclamation issued by the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the various Powers, accredited to the Court of Peking, for the information of all whom it may concern:

Be it hereby known that we, the Ministers Plenipotentiary above named, having presented certain matters to the Peace Plenipotentiaries have now received the consent of the Emperor of China to the same, by which it has been arranged that no Chinese shall be allowed to reside within the area containing the Foreign Legations. The boundaries of the said Legation Concession Area are as follow:—

(1) The southern boundary line marches along the foot of the city wall to the Ch'ienmen-gate and from thence ending at the Hata-gate. All houses immediately in the vicinity of these two gates, as well as those leaning against the city wall outside facing the south, are to be included within the said Legation Concession Area.

(2) The eastern boundary line begins at the Hata-gate inwards, along the Great Street (Ta-Chieh) to the Eastern Single Memorial Tower, North of the Pa-shihman-tang.

(3) The western boundary line commences from the Ch'ienmen-gate along Checker board Street (Ch'i-pan-chieh), northwards following the foot of the walls of the Imperial City, thence eastwards to the East Ch'angan-gate, thence again north to the foot of the wall of the southern part of the Imperial City.

(4) The northern boundary line starts from the foot of the wall of the southern portion of the Imperial City eastwards to the corner of the said Imperial City, thence turning to the north, behind the Erh-shihman-tang, north of the Eastern Single Memorial Tower.

It is hereby required that all Chinese hitherto residing in the area contained within the above noted boundary lines shall remove from thence. As for the houses and land thus given up by the said owners, the said Foreign Ministers have already consulted and arranged with the Chinese Government to settle the prices to be paid for the said houses and lands in a just and impartial manner for compensation of said owners. In this connection, owners of houses and land shall be required to present their documents and title-deeds at the General Council House of the Foreign Ministers, situated in the Shamao-street, for inspection. Should it happen that owners have lost their title-deeds and other documents they are permitted to petition the matter to the said General Council House, explaining the circumstances, giving the location with particulars of the boundary lines of the said property and all other important matters concerning the same.

The owners of all houses and lands within the Legation Concession Area must also each bring with him two other persons, who shall not only be witnesses but also guarantors that the title deeds, etc., produced by the alleged owners are *bona fide* and genuine documents; and they shall also guarantee the truth of all allegations made by the said owners. After having made all careful and necessary examination into said claims, the within-named Foreign Ministers

shall decide upon just and equitable prices, so that the said owners may obtain whatever may be the right value of their properties under the circumstances. Having determined upon the sums to be paid, the said Foreign Ministers will demand these monies from the Chinese Government.

New be it known that beginning from this date of the issuance of this proclamation a limit of twenty days, that is to say, to the 8th day of the 4th Moon (25th May) shall be given to the owners of the said properties to present their title-deeds and documents or petitions thereon to the said General Council House in Shamao Street. If it should turn out that false title-deeds have been presented, or that false owners have appeared with claims to property not belonging to them, and such like attempts at fraud, or there may be collusion with witnesses to perpetrate frauds, as soon as these are found out the severest punishments will be dealt out to the culprits, and no leniency will be exercised.

4th May, 1901.

THE FOOCHOW TEA MARKET.

From the doleful accounts reaching us throughout the spring and the gloomy view taken of the future by those who in the slack season had visited those markets we were prepared to see unprecedented difficulties attending the commencement of business this season, and it is not too much to say that the Chinese rather expected them than otherwise. We do not mean that we were prepared to see no buying until the middle or end of June (as some predicted) or that Chinese expected to get no offers for their teas for some time after their arrival—that would indeed be a serious collapse in a trade that is dying out, but the end is not yet. What we and they looked for, under all the existing circumstances, was a determination on the part of buyers not to begin business unless they could purchase on a distinctly lower basis of price than they did last year. These remarks do not apply to our specialties, Souchongs and Flowery Pekoes, which our rivals in India and Ceylon have not yet succeeded in interfering with. It is of our stable commodity, Congou, that we write, and what have we seen? So far from there having been any hitch, the market sprang into life almost as soon as the samples were shown and on a scale of prices fully on a parity with those established at the opening of the market last year, blowing the forecast to the winds. And so we are launched into the tea season of 1901-1902. The Chinese are making handsome profits, and as regards the best chops of each district it is a good thing they have made them, since it will encourage them to supply teas of good quality; but we think that it would be of advantage to all those interested in the trade if there was a larger margin in price between those that are best and those that are not. It may be—indeed is—argued now that the important shortage in the yield of first crop (estimated at 30 per cent) warrants the prices paid for every chop so far shipped, looked at as *first steamer shipments*,—this scarcely fits in with what was generally thought a fortnight ago.

After all it is nothing new that the opening of business should go contrary to local preconceived ideas. It has long been evident that however disastrous a past season may have been to shippers, the circumstance has no influence on the opening prices of the next season. It has been proved, the present opening proves it, that our buyers as a body have no control over the market; it is those at a distance in the various consuming markets who unwittingly control it. Orders come from all quarters of the globe for, say, finest teas to be shipped by first steamer; they may be ever so small but in the hands of several firms they lead to a good deal of competition in the course of their execution, and so it comes about that the most careful buyers find themselves obliged to pay prices their neighbours deem absurdly high. Small though these orders may be, they aggregate quite sufficient to set business going and establish a scale of prices which others have to follow or lose their chance of an interest in a first steamer. This is the explanation of our early activity and high prices. It is undoubtedly a hard case that the regular

trader should have the market spoilt for him at the commencement of the season by a handful of small orders, practically unlimited as to price, and sent by people who will have no further interest in the article during the season but where is the remedy?—*Foochow Echo*.

HONGKONG.

The Harbour Master, Commander R. Murray Runsey, R.N., has returned to the Colony.

On the 26th ult. one Chinese case of small-pox in the colony was reported by the Sanitary authorities.

On the 25th ult. the U.S. gunboat *Bennington* left for Shanghai. The German gunboat *Jaguar* left on the 26th ult. for Pakhoi.

By a regulation made by the Governor in Council on the 17th ult., the number of jinrickshas to be licensed was increased from 1,000 to 1,200.

Considerable enthusiasm and excitement was caused on the 21st ult. among the Chinese of Praya West by the appearance of a Dragon boat, on the water front, rowed by about forty men, which was going towards West Point.

The return of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., to his duties as Colonial Secretary is notified in the *Gazette*, as is the resumption by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead of his position as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

On Thursday an unknown European, while going in a ricksha along Praya East, either jumped or fell out of the same, and sustained severe concussion of the brain. He was picked up in a comatose state, and, we are informed, has not yet regained consciousness.

After all the trouble and discussion over the Venice Convention preventing the local Government from allowing sick Chinese leaving the Colony it has now been discovered that the Convention does not apply to Hongkong. Really the local Government should start an Intelligence Department.

On the 26th ult. the British transports *Chingtu* and *Ibua* arrived from Weihaiwei and Calcutta respectively, while the *Putiula* and *Itola* left—the former for Taku, the latter for Calcutta. On the 27th ult. the British transports *Chingtu*, *Mutra*, and *Itrea* left the harbour, the first for Calcutta, and the other two for Taku.

Mr. A. G. Wise, Puisne Judge, was on the 26th ult. sworn in by H.E. the Governor as Acting Chief Justice during the absence on holiday of Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., who sailed by the *Empress of China* on the 26th ult. for a three months' tour in Japan. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, will resume the office of Acting Puisne Judge. P.C. 99 (James New) died at the Sung Sui Police Station at 10 p.m. on the 24th ult. from malarial fever. The funeral took place at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, and was numerously attended by the deceased's comrades. New was one of the last batch of marines which arrived in the colony a little over a year ago to augment the Police Force. He held the medal and bar for the Benin campaign of 1894-97. New was aged only 24, and was a native of London.

Just as the hearing was adjourned for tiffin of the Crisp trial on the 21st ult., a Chinaman, unwashed and ill-clad, stepped into the witness-box and calmly surveyed the departing form of the Chief Justice. He had a little difficulty about money that he wanted settled, it transpired, and took this method of bringing his case directly before the notice of the Court. The would-be-litigant was persuaded to retire from the witness-box and to make his application in the usual way.

William Klein and Charles Knairacher, two German youngsters, without employment, residing at the "Star" Coffee House, were taken to the Central Police Station last Saturday noon on the charge of stealing a pair of silk pyjamas from one Mr. Haley, a boarder at the same place. They claimed that the pyjamas were given to them by complainant amongst a lot of other clothing he gave them a few days ago. They were released after a short detention, as there was not sufficient evidence to ensure a conviction. The inspector in charge justly concluding that possibly the pyjamas were amongst the clothing given to defendants without complainant being aware of it.

The British transport *Itola* arrived on the 24th ult. from Taku.

On Sunday night, the 23rd ult. the British transports *Lalpoora* and *Nurani* left for Taku. The meeting of the Legislative Council summoned for the 25th ult., at 3 p.m., was postponed *sine die*.

Four French transports leave Marseilles for Taku this week to take back part of the expeditionary force.

Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., Chief Justice, left Hongkong on the 26th ult. for a three months' holiday in Japan.

On the 24th ult. the British transports *Mutra* and *Putiula* arrived from Calcutta, while the *Ula* left for the same port.

On Saturday the British transports *Ula* and *Nurani* reached Hongkong, the former from Taku, the latter from Calcutta.

Invalided non-commissioned officers and men, to the number of about thirty, left for England on the 28th ult. by the P. & O. steamer *Japan*.

Nurse E. S. Gray, the first of the nurses engaged to work in connection with the Hongkong Nursing Institution, arrived in the colony by the last English mail.

Apart from plague last week, the cases of communicable disease reported in the colony were only two, both of enteric fever—one European and one Chinese. No deaths were reported.

Among the departures by the *Pariamatta* on the 22nd ult. were Capt. Langhorne, R.A., Commander E. D. Hunt, and Deputy Inspector General Bolster, of the Royal Naval Hospital, who are all bound for London.

The water polo match at Kowloon on the 25th ult. between the V.R.C. and 25th Eastern Division, R.A., resulted in a win for the V.R.C. by three goals to one. Armstrong for the V.R.C. played well, and Andrews played in a manner worthy of the best traditions.

On the 23rd ult. Mr. C. B. Buyers, Superintendent of the Peak Tramway, who has but lately returned to Hongkong from a holiday, met with a serious accident. It occurred as he was about to board a tram in motion near the Peak Station. Missing his footing, or misjudging the speed at which the car was approaching, he was forcibly thrown off the car and against the fence. The impetus carried him over the fence, and he fell a distance of about 15 feet. On being picked up he was conveyed to the Peak Hospital and found to be suffering from a severe injury to the head, a fractured collar bone and a damaged rib. Mr. Buyers is, however, progressing favourably, in spite of his numerous injuries.

Colonel The O'Gorman, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General in Hongkong, is, with Madam O'Gorman, leaving the colony at an early date for England. Colonel O'Gorman's term of service expired on the 30th ult., but the date of his sailing is not as yet definitely settled. He will be succeeded by Major Hamilton, King's Own Scottish Borderers, a staff officer of considerable experience. Major Hamilton, whose last appointment was that of Acting Adjutant General in the Presidency District of India, is due to take up the duties of the office left vacant by the retirement of Colonel O'Gorman on 1st July. The departure of Colonel The O'Gorman and his wife will be regretted by their many friends in Hongkong, who unite in wishing them *bon voyage*. They travel, it is understood, by way of the Trans-Siberian Railway.

The operations in connection with the attempt to be made on the 27th ult. to raise the *Canton River* are practically complete. Two pumps, one 10-inch and one 9-inch, have been erected in the forward compartment, and in the aft compartment is a 12-inch pump which will take in the entire engine-room. It is intended to pump out the three compartments at the same time, and, all being well, the vessel should float in about two hours from the commencement of pumping. The steam for working the pumps will be obtained from three launches to be moored alongside the staging. This staging has been erected with a view to lead the vessel up, and four anchors are placed on either side to prevent any possibility of its capsizing when it leaves the bottom of the harbour. The actual operation of raising the vessel will take place early this week.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Echo de Chine* says that the concession for the Yunnan Railway has been granted for 75 years.

Plague cases are reported to be numerous, but not of a virulent type, in the Engchun neighbourhood of Fohkien, not far from Amoy.

The coffin containing the remains of Baron von Ketteler was to be shipped in the German transport *Palatia*, which was expected to leave Taku on the 21st ult.

At will be noted from our Weihaiwei correspondent's letter that H.M.S. *Centurion* on her way home will probably follow the example of the German battleship squadron and avoid Hongkong.

The *N.C. Daily News* has received the following unsigned telegram, dated Tongku, 20th June, 5.30 p.m.:—"Threatened strike at coal mines Kaiping miners stop working outlook uncertain." The news is not confirmed.

The temporary hospital which was opened at Nagasaki by the French Government for the reception of wounded and invalided French troops from North China has now been permanently closed. Some of the properties used in the hospital have been sold.

The Tientsin Chamber of Commerce has addressed a note to the Doyen of the diplomatic corps in Peking, requesting that the Allies Administration Yamen (the Provisional Government) may be made permanent, in order to ensure the protection of foreign interests.

Judge Taft, President of the Civil Commission in the Philippines has now appointed Supreme Court and District Judges. Among the Supreme Court appointments are four Filipinos or Mestizos and three Americans, Don Cayetano Arollano being the Chief Justice. Among the appointees for the District Judgeship are eleven Americans and six Filipinos. The highest salary paid to the District Judges is received by the Judge of Manila, viz., \$5,500 per annum and the lowest to the District Judges of the Calamianes and Cayos Iland group, viz., \$3,000 per annum.

The following paragraph appears in the *Corriere della Sera* (Milan) of the 21st May:—"Mrs. Volpicelli, the wife of our Consul in Hongkong, was decorated with the large silver medal of the Red Cross for her charitable work in China. Mrs. Volpicelli was received by Queen Margaret, who paid her many compliments." Many of our readers will remember that Mrs. Volpicelli left in October last on the Italian transport *Singapore* which took home 60 sick and wounded Italian sailors and soldiers, besides two wounded Austrian officers. The silver medal was given for her assiduous nursing and attendance on the patients during the long homeward journey.

Major Caesar Nerazzini, Grand Cross of the Crown of Italy and Officer of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, who arrived at Shanghai by the *Kiauchou* has taken charge of the Italian Consulate-General. Major Nerazzini who was formerly a doctor in the Italian Navy, is not a stranger to Shanghai, having visited the port on the staff of the Duke of Genoa when the Duke came there in command of the *Vettor Pisani* some twenty years ago. The King of Italy has conferred on Signor E. Ghisi, the predecessor of Major Nerazzini, the rank of Honorary Consul-General, and has appointed him Commander of the Crown of Italy, in recognition of his services to his country in Shanghai.

Apparently great dissatisfaction is felt among the civil employees in the different government offices in Manila, by the order of the Civil Service Board that all civil employees must pass a civil service examination to prove their fitness to continue in the service. Most of the employees who have been in the same posts for several years, came over from the United States as volunteers to help their country to gain a foothold in the Philippines. While still soldiers they were detailed for duty in the various departments to assist in the re-organisation and to evolve order out of the chaos caused by the war, and after having been honourably discharged from the army continued in the service as civilians. They argue that the best criterion of their fitness to continue in the positions they hold is the efficiency with which they have discharged their duties hitherto.

There is some talk in Manila that General Wright proposes to organise a Filipino Militia corps.

At the Police Court at Singapore on the 20th ult., the fourteen prisoners arrested in connection with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank robbery were arraigned before Mr. Michell. Seven of the prisoners were admitted to bail, and the case was postponed for a week.

It has been decided at Tientsin to have an annual celebration of the siege and relief of the Settlements, in the shape of a banquet on the 23rd June, on which day last year the relief was virtually effected. The Gordon Hall was selected as the place in which this annual banquet shall be held.

The *Straits Times* of the 18th ult., says:—H.M.S. *Lizard* sailed this morning. It is interesting to note that the gunboat took thirteen days to come from Hongkong, the reason being that she met with adverse winds and seas all the way. When she got here she had only fifteen tons of coal on board.

Four more transports have been chartered here, says a Calcutta despatch of the 6th ult., to bring back the Indian Contingent from China—the *Itaura*, the *Itinda*, the *Rajah* and the *Sumatra*. As at present arranged the Infantry Brigade will embark on the *Lalpoora*, which will be fitted and ready to leave Calcutta for Hongkong on Saturday (8th ult.). The *Itaura*, *Itinda* and *Sumatra* bring back the Cavalry Brigade.

Considerable friction has occurred in Shanghai between the Recreation Ground Committee and the Polo Club, nearly culminating on the 15th inst. in a fight, according to the local papers. The trouble arose over the action of the Polo Club in erecting a match and rail which they reserved for honorary and playing members, which the Recreation Ground Committee held to be an infringement of the public rights.

The Statement of Expenditure in connection with the recent Royal visit to Singapore has twenty-one items of expenditure, varying in amount from the humble 75 cents "Paid Royal Artillery for firing signal guns," to the \$11,215.02 accounted for by the Honorary Treasurer of the Decoration Committee; or the \$10,852.52 "Expended by the Colonial Engineer for furnishing Government House." The Protector of Chinese expended \$9,958.92 on illuminations, and another even \$6,000 on the Chinese and Malay processions. Mr. C. B. Buckley spent \$2,221.93 on the Children's Gathering, and \$1,000 was spent on the Penang Volunteers. No less sum than \$267.60 was paid for gharries and rickshas. The President of the Addresses Committee spent \$997.73 on the address and appurtenances thereof, Mr. Rodesse disposed of \$591.77 on the Regatta. Advertising in Chinese and English only came to \$213.5. The other items comprise hotel charges, \$865.99, van hire, allowances to postmen for acting as porters, etc.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Lieutenants: C. M. Masters (N), B. S. Thesiger (G), R. A. Newton (T), A. W. Kerr, H. T. Pritchard, and C. R. Watson to the *Cressy*, to date May 23. Midshipmen: G. N. Biggs, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 31; G. B. Palmes, C. H. Mackinnon, E. T. Fletcher, F. L. Buck, and A. T. D. George, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Naval Cadets: A. H. B. Bissett, to the *Ocean*; U. H. Philips and A. G. Onslow, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30; L. A. W. Spooner, H. N. M. Hardy, J. F. Hutchings, H. R. Sawbridge, and R. R. Hollowell-Carew, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Midshipman E. Combe, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Paymaster H. Constantine, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Captain H. M. T. Tabor, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Commander F. C. H. Allenby, to the *Cressy*, to date May 23. Midshipman V. R. Williams, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Staff Surgeon R. H. Nicholson, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Surgeon N. H. Harris, to the *Cressy*, to date May 23. Lieutenant M. D. McNeill, to the *Eclipse*, to date June 7th. Fleet Engineer J. S. Watch, to the *Cressy*, to date May 23. Engineers: H. E. Rush and J. Kelly, to the *Cressy*, to date May 28. Assistant Engineers: H. Hammond, E. B. Scott, and E. G. Smith (probationary), to the *Cressy*, to date May 23. Paymaster A. H. Veitoh, to the *Eclipse*, to date May 30.

The *Malay Mail* remarks that the damage done to Pahang by the recently published report on the Raub Company's workings will be lasting. It will scare off capitalists and weaken the position of existing mines. This, coming on the top of certain other not over successful mining ventures in other parts of the peninsula, is likely to result in a good deal of real and direct loss.

The *Deutsche Asiat sche Warte* of the 12th ult. has the following criticism on the new postage-stamps which were sent from home to the German postal authorities at Kiaochau for issue:—These postage stamps are very pretty, but are of no use for our colony. The denomination is printed in German instead of in dollar currency. What do we here care for marks? You cannot buy stamps for German money, not even at the post office. Therefore what is the use of putting the denomination of a currency on a stamp which is here valueless? A ten-pfeunig stamp costs four cents, but four cents are not ten pfennig. The worst is that the Chinese make a lucrative trade in selling stamps. They sell a ten pfennig stamp for five cents. Now this could be easily stopped if the proper price in the prevailing currency of the colony were printed thereon. As it is, there is no remedy, and the wily Chinese gathers his 20 per cent. profit. English postage-stamps in China have their denomination printed thereon in dollar currency, and the stamps of other nations are also always printed in the denomination of the currency prevalent in the country where such stamps are sold.

The *Sin Wan Pao* says that the famous "Coal Hill" at Peking, north of the Palace, is now daily crowded with sightseers. The various kiosques have been somewhat damaged, and a bronze image of Buddha has been tumbled down off its wooden frame. There are scattered about the grounds numerous tablets, and photographers are seizing the opportunity of photographing these, a rare opportunity which will probably never recur. There is also a still rarer object upon the walls of the Forbidden City, which is also being recorded on the lenses of the photographers. This is a Boxer proclamation in the name of Prince Chuang, Kang Yi and others. It says: "All the foreign devils' halls have now been burnt, and the devils have now no place to hide themselves. If any one aids them to hide away, he will be killed without mercy. If any one searches out a man, and hands him over he will receive 50 taels, a woman, forty taels, or a devil child, thirty taels. They must be real foreigners, and upon inspection made the rewards will be paid at once. If any one desires to help the military funds let them forward their money to Prince Chuang, and after peace is restored they will all be duly rewarded."

The *N.C. Daily News* states that, in response to the request of the Committee of Ministers at Peking on the Huangpu (Whangpoo) Question that a member of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce should go to Peking to discuss the Conservancy question, Mr. E. A. Hewett will leave for Peking early this week. In a leader-note our contemporary says:—"It is a great satisfaction to those in and out of the Chamber of Commerce who have been hammering away at this question for over a quarter of a century to find it seriously taken up at Peking at last. Ten years ago a subscription was raised by the Chamber of Commerce for preliminary expenses, and five years ago after attempts to secure a leading English engineer, M. de Rijke, than whom no one has a better knowledge of the subject, made another survey and report, his fee being \$10,000 (gold), for which the Chamber made the necessary arrangements. Three years ago the Chamber submitted to Peking a scheme for the rectification and conservancy of the river and its approaches; and now the Committee of Ministers is taking the matter seriously in hand; and it is with great satisfaction that we learn that Mr. E. A. Hewett is returning to Peking early next week to discuss the question with the Committee. We hope that the Chamber will succeed in their contention that the matter should be put in the hands of an international board. Strong efforts are being made to have it put altogether in the hands of the Foreign Customs; but there is a preponderance of reasons in favour of entrusting the work to an International Conservancy Board."

COMMERCIAL.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.
1900-01 1899-00
lbs. lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow... 10,761,826 5,050,113

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG 28th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 28th June.—There have been no arrivals, and prices are consequently going upward. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.73 to \$8.77 pcl.
do. " 2, White..... 7.97 to 8.02 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.70 to 5.75 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.55 to 5.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.64 to 8.68 "
do. " 1, White..... 8.63 to 8.70 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.63 to 5.70 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.48 to 5.53 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....13.50 to 13.55 "
Shekloong "12.78 to 12.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th June.—Prices are declining, the market being weak. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.30 to 2.35
" Round, Good quality 3.45 to 3.50
" Long 3.65 to 3.70
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.40 to 2.45
" Garden, " No. 1 3.28 to 3.32
" White..... 4.05 to 4.10
" Fine Cargo 4.25 to 4.30

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Rhipheus*, sailed on the 14th June. For Liverpool:—60 pkgs. tea (particulars unknown), 1,700 bales hemp, 129 bales mats, 100 cases palm leaf fans, 5 cases bambooware, 22 cases private effects and curios, 2 cases cigars. For Manchester:—25 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on the 22nd June. For London:—90 bales waste silk opt. Manchester, 64 h/c. tea from Amoy, 327 boxes tea from Macao, 1 case cigars from Manila, 1 case cigars, 2 cases books, 10 cases bristles, 70 cases vermilion, 4 cases camphor-wood trunks, 30 pkgs. tea, 15 cases silks, 50 bales raw silk, 2 cases grasscloth, 1 case effects. For Lyons:—335 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—219 bales raw silk, 2 cases lacquerware, 1 case silk.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 28th June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 50 bales No. 8 at \$80, 1,950 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$91, 700 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$90.50, 550 bales No. 16 at \$89 to \$103, 1,850 bales No. 20 at \$89 (to arrive) to \$109.50. *Grey Shirtings*: 300 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.00, 100 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Man at \$3.77½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.90, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.62½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Man at \$3.77½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Man at \$4.4, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Horse and Soldier at \$4.35, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$4.42½, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue 2 Fishes at \$3.35, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.62½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Cock at \$3.95. *White Shirtings*: 500 pieces S. W. and Fook at \$5.85, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.20, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.90, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.20, 500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.95, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.22½, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.92½, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.90, 500 pieces Kow Yam at \$2.95. *Mexicans*: 600 pieces 36 V. V. at \$3.20, 375 pieces 32 Red Stag at \$2.75, 75 pieces 32 Red Stag at \$2.75, 600 pieces 36 Red Stag at \$3.00, 600 pieces 36 V. V. at \$3.20, 600 pieces 36 X. X. at \$3.25, 750 pieces 32 Red Stag at \$2.80, 750 pieces 32 Cobbler at \$2.62½. *Drill*: 150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.30.

METALS.—*Wire Nails*: 750 kegs at \$5.50 to arrive, 600 kegs at \$6.00 to arrive.

COTTON YARN — per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$77.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.05 to 2.15
7 lbs. 2.20 to 2.35
8.4 lbs. 2.70 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs. 3.35 to 4.45

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.35 to 2.55
58 to 60 " 3.05 to 3.80
64 to 66 " 4.05 to 5.40
Fine 5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds 4.05 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.60 to 1.77½
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.80 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.75 to 3.25
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs } 1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed per yard

Chintzes—Assorted 0.08½ to 0.17

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.22½ to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.80 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.40 to 10.00

Assorted 6.50 to 10.10

Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00

Assorted 8.00 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod 4.25 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.20 to —

Swedish Bar 6.75 to —

Small Round Rod 4.75 to —

Hoop 1 to 11 2 in. 5.25 to —

Wire 15, 25 8.00 to —

Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.25 to —

Australian 8.00 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14 20 oz. 41.00 to —

Vivian's 14 20 oz. 40.50 to —

Elliot's 14 20 oz. 40.25 to —

Composition Nails 63.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 42.00 to —

Tin 69.50 to —

Tin-Plates 7.20 to —

Steel ½ to 1 5.75 to —

New Chops 14 20 oz. — to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver 167.00 to —

Window Glass 5.75 to —

Kerosene Oil 2.15 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 29th June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½

Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11½

Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/11½

Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.46½

Credits, 4 months' sight 2.50

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.00½

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 47½

Credits, 60 days' sight 48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147

Bank, on demand 147½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147

Bank, on demand 147½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 72½

Private, 30 days' sight 73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 5½

ON MANILA.—

On demand 2½

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand ½

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 117½

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 2½

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 2½

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand 59½

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ... 10.15

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 52.50

BAR SILVER per oz. 27½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Glenesk* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.).

FOR LONDON.—*Peleus* (str.), *Japan* (str.),

Glenagarry (str.), *Alcinous* (str.), *Chasan* (str.),

Glenesk (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Glaucus* (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—*Kiautschow* (str.), *Sambia* (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sambia* (str.).

Wuersburg (str.), *Acilia* (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Duke of Fife* (str.), *Idsumi*

Maru (str.), *Kaisow* (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

Tartar (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indrapura* (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*America Maru* (str.),

City of Peking (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—*Louther Castle* (str.), *Indran*

(str.), *Arara* (str.), *L. Schepp*.

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Rosetta Maru* (str.),

Taiwan (str.), *Taiyuan* (str.).

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 28th June.—The influence of the settlement to be effected to-morrow has rendered business during the period which has elapsed since our last report very fitful, and rates have generally ruled erratic.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at 388 per cent. premium and at 390 per cent. premium, but at the close the market appears to have receded to 387½ per cent. premium. The London rates remains at 261. 10s. Nationals and Bank of Chinas are unchanged at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The only change to note is in China Traders, in which business has been done at \$60½; the closing rate is \$61 with sellers. North Chinas continue in demand at \$18. 180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are steady at \$350, at which sales are reported. China Fires have improved to \$84 at which shares have changed hands, and there are probable further buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue steady at \$35 with sellers. Indo-Chinas have ruled unsteady, and sales are reported from \$151 down to \$147. At the close the market shows an inclination to advance, with buyers at \$149. China Manilas are in request at \$62 and \$52 for the old and new shares respectively. Douglasses have been placed in large lots at \$56, and further shares are probably obtainable at the rate. On time \$58 for August has resulted in business. Shell Transports are quiet and without feature at £2. 12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet at \$145 and Luzons at \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have further declined to \$5½, at which shares are to be had. Jebebus have sellers at \$4½. Ranks are wanted at \$12. Olivers have receded to \$1 with sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whimpoa Docks have been placed in large lots at \$315, and sales are reported also at \$312½ and \$310; at the close the market appears to be rallying at \$315 with a few sellers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are in the market at \$104. Sales of this stock are reported at \$104½ down to \$103.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been sold at \$190 to \$200, and more shares are wanted at the higher rate. Kowloon Lands have been placed at \$30. Hongkong Hotels have been done at \$127½ and \$128, and more shares are wanted. Humphreys Estates are to be had at \$13½.

COTTON MILLS.—There are no changes to report under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been disposed of at \$19½. Hongkong and China Gas have improved to \$140 with buyers. Tramways are wanted at \$240. Steam Water Boats are in request at \$8. Campbell Moores are in demand at \$20. Cigar Shares are unchanged.

MEMOS. — Hongkong Cotton Spinning Weaving and Dyeing Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 13th July. Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders on the 6th proximo.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ 387½ p.ct.prm. = [\$809.37. L'don, £61. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers.
China Light & Power) Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.85, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$145.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco) Invest. Co., Ltd. }	\$50	\$60, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 327.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 20.
Hongkong	\$100	\$8, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$71, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$194, sales
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric) H. H. L. Tramways }	\$5	\$123, buyers
Hk. Steam Water) boat Co., Ltd. }	\$5	\$61, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$240, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$8, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$127½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$180.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$104, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$180, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$84, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$60, sellers
North China	\$25	\$350.
Straits	\$20	Tls. 180, buyers
Union	\$50	nominal.
Yangtze	\$60	\$340.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$120.
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$200, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$13, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$30, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$54, sales
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$30.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jebeu	\$5	\$41, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd...	25c.	6 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$1, sellers
Do. B....	\$4	\$1, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$54, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.25.
Raubs	18	\$12, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$22½.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$70.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	\$40	\$52, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$56, sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$31, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$149
Shell Transport and) Trading Co.	£1	£2. 12s. 6d.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$23, buyers { \$9, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$11½, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Universal Trading) Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 19th June (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). The week's business shows maintenance and improvement of rates in the leading stocks. **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Local shares were bought at 385 per cent. prem., and the market closes steady with buyers. **INSURANCE.**—Marine.—Nothing doing in these stocks. Fire.—Chinas were placed locally at \$84; Hongkongs are offering at \$355. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co.—Rates are well maintained and a firm demand for the stock continues. Sales for cash at the end of the month are reported at Tls. 105 to 107, closing with buyers at latter figure. The following settlements have been made:—July Tls. 106, 107, 105, 106 and 108, 10th August 109, October 110, November 112, December 113 and 104 (ex. div). **SUGARS.**—Chinas were bought from Hongkong at \$143 and are offering. **MINING.**—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. (New Company). Shareholders of the Old Company are notified that the Chartered Bank here will issue provisional certificates for 25 fully paid up £1 shares in exchange for scrip for each old share of the Old Company, on presentation. Shares changed hands from Tls. 255 to 270 for cash, and the market closes steady at latter rate. Settlements were made for June at Tls. 275, October 280 and 290 and December 292.50. **Raub Mining Co., Ltd.** Market is improved and up to \$15 was paid locally for shares. Singapore and Hongkong sales are quoted at \$14. **DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd. Market at the close of the week has shown a better feeling, and shares have been placed in quantity up to Tls. 295 cash and for the end of the month, the market closing steady with buyers. The following settlements have been made: July 292.50 to 30.250, August 292.50 to 305, September 300 to 305. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. Shareholders are reminded of the Extraordinary Meeting called for 21st inst. to consider the registration of the Company under Limited Liability and the issue of the unissued share capital and matters appertaining thereto. Shares changed hands up to Tls. 317.50 cash and September settlement was made at 325. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Land Investment Co. Shareholders are reminded that applications for allotment of new issue shares fall due on or before 30th inst. Shares are offering. **Humphreys Estate** shares were placed at \$13.75, and are offering. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Gas shares were bought at Tls. 115 and are wanted. Major Bros. shares are wanted. **Laou Kung Mow Cotton Mill** shares were placed at Tls. 50. Ice shares were settled at Tls. 35 and are in request. **Flour Mills** sold at Tls. 40 and are wanted. **Moutrie and Co.** and **Green Island Cement** shares are offering. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Nothing is doing in local stocks, but Taku Tugs are in request. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Sumatra Tobacco shares are on offer. **Shanghai Langkat Tobacco.** Good news from the Estate brought up cash rates to Tls. 350. Settlements were made for October at Tls. 362.50 and 365, November 367.50 and December 370. **Hall and Holtz** shares sold at \$34 and are offering. **Watson and Co.** shares were placed at \$15.50. **Horse Bazaar** and **Central Store** shares are wanted. **DEBENTURES.**—Nothing doing.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

June—
21, Elsa, German str., from Canton.
21, Hong Wan I, British str., from S'pore.
21, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
21, Glenartney, British str., from Amoy.
22, Chunsang, British str., from Bangkok.
22, Flintshire, British str., from London.
22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
22, Ula, British transport, from Taku.
22, Nurani, British transport, from Calcutta.
22, Hailong, British str., from Haiphong.
22, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
23, Anping, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Hanoi, French str., from Hoihow.
23, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
23, Luise, German str., from Novorossisk.
23, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
24, Hermione, British str., from Swatow.
24, Kiukiang, British str., from Chefoo.
24, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
24, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
24, Dido, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.
24, Pigmy, British gunboat, from Singapore.
24, Airlie, British str., from Kobe.
24, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
24, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.

24, Itola, British transport, from Taku.
25, Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Bayern, German str., from Bremen.
25, Kwongsang, British str., from Taku.
25, Clam, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Telemachus, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
25, Elita Nossack, German str., from Canton.
25, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
25, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
25, Mutra, British transport, from Calcutta.
25, Putiala, British trspt., from Calcutta.
25, Kansu, British str., from Chinkiang.
25, Tsinan, British str., from Australia.
25, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Toonan, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
26, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
26, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
26, Sachsen, French str., from Yokohama.
26, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
26, Jaguar, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.
26, Chingtu, British trspt., from Weihaiwei.
26, Itrea, British transport, from Calcutta.
26, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
26, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
26, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
26, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
26, Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
26, Tailes, German str., from Saigon.
26, Malacca, British str., from London.
27, Aristeia, Austrian str., from Moji.
27, Pelous, British str., from Liverpool.
27, Anping, British str., from Canton.
27, Mara Kolb, German str., from Moji.
27, Nurnberg, German str., from Shanghai.
27, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
27, Taishan, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
27, Hansa, German str., from Java.
27, Japan, British str., from Japan.
27, P. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
27, Chinkiang, British str., from Canton.
27, Nanshan, British str., from Newport.
28, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
28, Benalder, British str., from London.
28, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
28, Loksang, British str., from Wuhu.
28, Maidzun Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
28, Obi, British str., from Kutchinotau.
28, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
28, Feiching, British str., from Shanghai.
28, Glengarry, British str., from Amoy.
29, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
29, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
29, Daigi Maru, Jap. nese str., from Tamsui.
29, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
29, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Kweilin, British str., from Newchwang.
29, S. Van Langkat, Dut. str., from Langkat.
29, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
29, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Rajah, British transport, from Calcutta.
30, Cassius, German str., from Moji.
30, Mannel Llaguno, Amr. sh., from New York.

DEPARTURES.

June—
22, Parramatta, British str., for Europe.
22, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Ixion, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Belgian KING, Brit. str., for S. Francisco.
22, Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
22, Miike Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
22, Lyceumoon, German str., for Shanghai.
22, Elsa, German str., for Hongay.
23, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
23, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
23, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
23, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
23, Fausang, British str., for Singapore.
23, Benlarig, British str., for Saigon.
23, Lalpoora, British trspt., for Taku.
23, Nurani, British trspt., for Taku.
23, Glenartney, British str., for Manila.
24, Michael Jebbs n, German str., for Hoihow.
24, Independent, German str., for Chefoo.
24, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
24, Esmeralda, British str., for Saigon.
24, Perla, British str., for Manila.
24, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Anping, British str., for Canton.
24, Kinkiang, British str., for Canton.
25, Endymion, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.
25, Heathburn, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
25, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.

25, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 25, Hong Wan I, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 25, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 25, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 25, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Luise, German str., for Talienwan.
 25, Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Ula, British transport, for Calcutta.
 25, Bennington, U.S. gunboat, for Shanghai.
 25, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
 26, Empress of India, Brit. str., for V'conver.
 26, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 26, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 26, Machaon, British str., for London.
 26, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 26, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Taiyuan, British str., for Foochow.
 26, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 26, Elita Nossack, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 26, Putiala, British trspt., for Taku.
 26, Itola, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 27, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 27, Sachsen, German str., for Europe.
 27, Chingtu, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 27, Mutra, British transport, for Taku.
 27, Itrea, British transport, for Taku.
 27, Clam, British str., for Singapore.
 27, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 28, Taishun, American str., for Canton.
 28, Toonan, Amr. str., for Haiphong.
 28, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., for Sydney.
 28, Duke of Fife, British str., for Tacoma.
 28, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 28, Airlie, British str., for Sydney.
 28, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Penleus, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Chunsang, British str., for Bangkok.
 28, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 28, Hitachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 29, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 29, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 29, Chinkiang, British str., for Iloilo.
 29, Flintshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Japan, British str., for London.
 29, Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Aristeia, Austrian str., for Moji.
 29, Nurnberg, German str., for Hamburg.
 29, Glengarry, British str., for London.
 30, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 30, Silesia, German str., for Yokohama.
 30, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, P. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sunda*, for Hongkong, from London. Messrs. J. Cunningham, R. Wilson. Corpl. P. W. Fernie, Miss H. Cassells and Miss Gray; from Bombay, Mr. A. A. Ebrahim; from Singapore, Dr. F. H. Bowers, Mrs. Rolph, Miss M. E. Glover and Mr. L. C. Hochapfel; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Valenza and three children, Miss Valenza and Mr. W. G. Pratt; from Marseilles, Mrs. Tweedell.

Per *Parramatta*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Hon. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. N. Rushwaldy, Messrs. H. E. Sley and H. A. Meyer, Sub-Condt. Domlan, Corpl. Vaughan, Revs. Antonio Roliz and P. Gomez, Messrs. E. R. Chance, J. C. Kaye and C. Duncan; for London, Messrs. J. W. Fenton and G. J. Butler.

Per *Flintshire*, from London, Mr. and Mrs. G. Parsons.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. F. Hudson, S. H. Price, Oppenheimer and Miss J. Querabin.

Per *Ula* from Taku, Lieut.-Col. G. K. Scott-Moncrieff, R.E., Lieut.-Col. Waddell, I.M.S., Major Radcliff, 30th M.I., Capt. Garratt, 3rd Bombay L.I., Capt. Watson, I.M.S., Capt. Lalor, I.M.S., Sub-Conductor Lewis, and Sergt. Mullett.

Per *Kiukiang*, from Chefoo, Mr. De Silva.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Capt. Thompson.

Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Count von Konigsmunk, Messrs. Munall, Corlett, H. K. Schumacher and E. Goldstein.

Per *Keongwai*, from Bangkok, &c, Mrs. McAnzie.

Per *Wingsang*, from Swatow, Mrs. Wheeley and child, Miss Kennett, Mrs. Kahler, and Mr. Tyler.

Per *Tsinan*, from Australia, Rev. A. Taylor and Mr. Bennetche.

Per *Airlie*, from Kob, Mrs. S. W. Moore and child and Mr. G. Mackie.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Messrs. Lewis, Shelly, Laird, Frenaut, Keyseer, Mrs. Hamlin and Mr. Thomas.

Per *Bayern*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Mr. Peter Michelsen; from Southampton, Mr. Gustav L. Larsen; from Genoa, Mr. Robert Hachfeld; from Naples, Mr. G. Friesland; from Penang, Mr. J. D. Fraser; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Newall and Mr. A. P. Viewkamp; for Shanghai, from Bremen, Mr. Franz Neugebener; from Rotterdam, Mr. J. Zurawski; from Southampton, Miss Martha Williams; from Genoa, Mrs. H. Mandl, Dr. Rapp, Capt. Kanski, Messrs. J. Vennewitz, F. Pinnou, Reckes, E. Benck and P. Richter; from Naples, Mr. Bernardino del Fnse; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Borallie, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cohn, Mr. and Mrs. Reb. Hulsman, Mr. and Mrs. Filippo Logindice, Mr. and Mrs. Mannes-kop; from Singapore, Mrs. H. Schack; for Yokohama, from Genoa, Mr. J. Feike; from Singapore, Messrs. Alfred E. Burton and George L. Hosmer; for Kobe, from Genoa, Miss M. Brass, Messrs. G. Borkowsky and A. Fioschi; for Nagasaki, from Penang, Mrs. Okito.

Per *Catherine Apear*, from Calcutta, &c, Mr. J. R. Halifax.

Per *Sachsen*, from Yokohama, &c, Mr. and Mrs. Grote, Mrs. E. Georg, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Maitland, Mrs. Jackson, Messrs. J. M. Forbes, J. N. Brooks, M. Williams, J. C. Rampini, C. Le Bas Rickman, Mr. and Mrs. Weatherston, Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor, and Mr. E. A. Grigson.

Per *Taishun*, from Shanghai, Capt. Dawson.

Per *Japan*, from Shanghai, for London, 2nd Lieut. J. E. Leake.

Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c, Messrs. A. J. Bowie, J. W. Copmann, F. T. Dredge, Dr. F. W. Foxworthy, Mrs. G. E. Herr, Lieut. C. D. Herron, Miss B. Marley, Mrs. M. Macondray, Dr. Miller, Mr. G. McBain, Miss M. Reese, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Rittig, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Shanks and three children, Mrs. Barrett and two children, Mrs. M. Dell, Mrs. E. H. Gale, Miss Hertigan, Mr. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Morgan, Mr. R. L. Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. C. Palmer, Messrs. O. S. Rothschild, S. Sudzuki, Rev. and Mrs. G. J. Williams.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Lieut. Moller, Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Watts.

DEPARTED.

Per *Sado Maru*, for Japan, Messrs. Y. Sawaji, L. Dime, Garrioford, F. Maurer, Mrs. Maurer and infant, Miss K. Soillecka, Messrs. T. Inouye, G. T. Boxton, T. Haraguchi, T. Aizawa, and John Smith.

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Per *Yanata Maru*, for Japan, Miss B. B. Robinson, Miss Bracket, Mr. A. Stewart, Mrs. H. T. Elwyn, Mr. F. A. Hyland, Mr. and Mrs. L. Bates, Master Bates, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Drysdale, Mr. J. McLaughlin, Mrs. Angus, Miss Angus, Messrs. Y. Kishimoto, J. B. Rodgers, C. Rossell, C. E. Jackson, Lieut. S. T. Cargill, R.E., Miss S. Watanabe, Mrs. N. Yagi, Messrs. I. Takumi and N. Matsumura, Mrs. I. Tanaka, Messrs. H. M. M. Davidson, B. Taylor, J. E. Briscoe, Miss Briscoe, and Mr. J. Hays.

Per *Miike Maru*, for Bombay, Messrs. T. Kashimura and K. Yamazaki.

Per *Sunda*, from London, for Shanghai, Mrs. Valenza and three children, Miss Valenza and Mr. W. G. Pratt; from Marseilles, Mrs. Tweedell; from Hongkong, Messrs. E. F. Mackay, Lorenzo Conte, Bonin, Blase, A. M. A. Evans, R. Zabreh and Capt. R. Nelson; from London, for Yokohama, Mr. O. Falck Ytter.

Per *Parramatta*, from Shanghai, for London, Messrs. J. W. Fenton and G. J. Butler; from Hongkong, for London, Mrs. Philpin and three children, Deputy Insptr.-Genl. Thos. Bolster, R.N., Comdr. E. D. Hunt, R.N., Lieut. C. A. B. Pearce, R.N., Midshipman A. G. Leslie, R.N., Capt. Langhorne, R.A., and Mr.

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Per *Bayern*, for Shanghai, Messrs. J. Oppenheim, S. Fidorhush, F. S. Rapp, Z. Shapera, H. Mandl, Mr. and Mrs. S. Menles, Mr. and Mrs. N. Zabarsky, Mr. and Mrs. A. Witenzen, Masters Francisco Guedes and Florindo Guedes.

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